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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the Senate's draft proposal to grant long-term alien workers status similar to that of Freely Associated States' citizens?

Yes	94
No	97
No opinion	6

Sunday, February 13, 2011

INSIDE



Obama Budget

President Barack Obama's budget submission on Monday will take a surgical approach to a deficit problem that his Republican rivals say warrants a meat ax.

Business Page 13



Post Mubarak

On Egypt's first day in nearly 30 years without Hosni Mubarak as president, its new military rulers promised Saturday to abide by the peace treaty with Israel and eventually hand power to an elected government.

World...Page 16



Desperate Bids

Hosni Mubarak was supposed to announce his resignation on Thursday.

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PSS stops school-organized fundraisers. PAGE 2
All US Army bases to soon fly CNMI flag. PAGE 3

'Senate report excludes testimony that supports green card and US citizenship'

» **Kilili says allowing foreign workers to freely work, travel in US not likely to pass Congress**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The United Workers Movement-NMI criticized the Senate's draft report, saying it omitted oral and written testimonies seeking U.S. citizenship and permanent resident status leading to citizenship.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, at the same time, reiterated yesterday that Congress is unlikely to allow long-term foreign workers in the CNMI to freely travel and work in the U.S. and its territories just like Freely Associated States

citizens.

He said another critical issue that needs to be addressed is the likely separation of many families after November 2011 when umbrella permits expire.

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House junks, then reconsiders bill allowing foreign-trained physicians to work in CNMI

» **Health Care Professions Licensing Board nixes measure**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After debating for almost an hour, the House thumbed down on Friday a proposal to allow foreign-trained doctors

and non-U.S. licensed physicians to work in the CNMI to address the doctor shortage, only to reconsider it for further committee review just minutes later.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said the Legislature should not wait for the problem of doctor shortage to go from worse to worst before acting on House Bill 17-71.

She said the Department of Public Health's Children's Clinic had to close because of lack of physicians. It has temporarily reopened, but is providing limited services.

Ogumoro also took a jab at the federal government for not considering this issue with the passage of U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said during the session that Gov. Benigno R.

See HOUSE on Page 4



'FOR MY SPECIAL SOMEONE'

Louie Bautista, 17, checks out merchandise as he does his Valentine's Day shopping for his "special someone," at the National Office Supply in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Despite a bad economy, retailers on island expect brisk sales of flowers, cards, chocolates, and other goods, while restaurants look forward to lots of customers for Valentine's Day today.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CUC: Proposed base rate hike due to projected \$5.6M losses per year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said it filed a new power rate hike petition with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission because it already projects a huge loss this fiscal year.

"The proposed base rate increase is needed to cover the projected losses of \$5.6 million per year. This rate plan will enable CUC to begin issuing the kinds of corporate bonds typical in the industry, to cover long-term electric system improvements. These will directly improve both the quality and reliability of service,"

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

Abe said the emergency hike of the levelized energy adjustment clause last month was enforced because of the increase in the price of fuel. There are three parts in the rate: customer charge, base rate, and levelized energy adjust-

ment clause.

Malae said the new proposed rate plan for base rate was also designed to meet the local law.

He said both CPUC orders and CNMI statutes require CUC to set rates that achieve "full cost recover," which means

See CUC on Page 4

Local

PSS stops school-organized fundraisers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has ordered a stop to all school-organized fundraisers in and outside school campuses.

PSS also gave full authorization to the Parents-Teachers-School Associations to spearhead all fundraising campaigns, albeit only for specific and PSS-approved projects.

At the same time, a full accounting and tracking of all the schools' non-appropriated funds is now being conducted by PSS to make sure that administrators and PTSAs are doing things right.

PSS finance director Richard Waldo disclosed this last Friday during the parents summit held in Tanapag Elementary School where he briefed participants of the importance of "accountability" in the system.

For many years, public schools have conducted fundraisers for specific projects and other purposes such as class educational trips and school improvement plans. These fundraisers are mostly done through selling snacks inside the campus.

Waldo admitted that due to these fundraising practices, a lot of students were provided

non-nutritious foods on campus which are not part of PSS' healthy and wellness program.

He added that fundraisers were also among the concerns of the federal granting agency that provides PSS \$9 million yearly for school breakfast and lunch program.

"We want to make sure that we don't violate federal programs which give us over \$9 million yearly [on food and meals]. That's one of the major reasons why we put a stop on these fundraisers by schools," said Waldo.

Due to the economic hardship, the finance director said

PSS is also trying to help parents cope with the situation. "Another reason is austerity. I don't think parents can still afford to give their little kids \$5 each to buy snacks at the school."

Now that PTSAs are only the authorized organizer for all fundraisers, Waldo said PSS mandates that each fundraising campaign would be "reasonable" for parents.

Although PTSAs are not part of PSS, Waldo pointed out that it is only proper that PSS assists them as they're using the school's name.

"Technically, they are not part of PSS but since they're using

our name we want to make sure that they do it right," he said, adding that PSS has assigned a school auditor that will track and monitor all non-appropriated funds of each school.

Non-appropriated funds refer to the monies received by schools outside of the budget they get from the local appropriation. These include educational tax credits, donations, and fundraising funds.

Waldo said two separate accounts are established for each school: one for ETC account and one for fundraising account.

"Although these monies will not be included in the PSS audit report, it will help them to prepare for their annual report. Each PTSAs has its own

separate bank account and all expenditures will be done by check," he said.

Expenditure authorities for both accounts are the respective school principals.

Waldo said because fraud has been committed by many public school principals in the U.S., it is proper to ensure that PSS protects its school administrators and PTSAs on potential abuses.

"Principals around the U.S. are fired because they used those monies. So we're trying to protect our principals from those temptations," he said.

Waldo disclosed that last school year, the PSS recorded approximately about \$100,000 in total educational tax credit for all its schools.

'5 more companies fail to pay \$215.4K in local taxes'

Five more companies failed to pay a total of \$215,429.40 in withholding tax and Business Gross Revenue Tax, according to the Department of Finance.

Finance filed on Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI separate notices of lien against Tano Group Inc., Kazoku Corp., Sablan Construction Company Ltd., Advance Marine Saipan Corp., and Fleet Marine LLC.

According to court documents filed by Finance collection and remittance branch manager Richard F. Santos, Tano Group's total unpaid tax amounts to \$36,270.84; while Kazoku Corp. owes \$64,610.23; Sablan Construction Company, \$33,617.30; Advance Marine Saipan, \$17,593.81; and Fleet Marine, \$62,337.22.

Tano Group allegedly failed to pay its BGRT in 2003, 2004, and 2007 and

withholding tax in 2005.

Kazoku Corp. allegedly failed to pay its BGRT from 1999 to 2009, and withholding tax in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2009. It also allegedly failed to pay bar tax in 2009.

Sablan Construction allegedly failed to pay its BGRT in 2009 and 2010.

Advance Marine Saipan allegedly failed to pay its BGRT from 2008 to 2010.

Fleet Marine allegedly failed to pay withholding tax from in 2009 and 2010.

Last week, Finance also filed notices of tax lien against Younis Art Studio Inc., the owner of Marianas Variety, and Senator Luis P. Crisostimo (Dem-Saipan) for allegedly failing to pay a total of \$901,456.84 in withholding tax and BGRT.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

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All US Army bases to soon fly CNMI flag

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

All U.S. Army installations will soon display the CNMI flag along with all other state and territorial flags during ceremonial occasions.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Housing and Partnerships Joseph F. Calcaro told Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan that

only four remaining Army installations do not have a complete or up-to-date set of flags, and these particular installations have a month to comply with Army regulations to display all state and territorial flags.

These are the Red Cloud, Casey, Yongsan, and Humphreys in South Korea.

"To ensure that necessary actions have occurred, Headquarters, Installations Management



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs a proclamation declaring Feb. 13 World Marriage Day at the Mount Carmel Curia in Chalan Kanoa Thursday afternoon. Fitial is flanked by members of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter and priests.

Federal judge deletes community service imposed on i-Connect blast mastermind

The federal court has deleted the 300 hours of community service that is part of the sentence imposed on the mastermind in the 2004 blast at the i-Connect telecommunications facility on Mt. Tapochau.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Marilyn L. Huff on Thursday granted the U.S. Probation Office's recommendation to modify the supervision of Marvin Leon Guerrero by deleting the 300 hours community work service.

U.S. Probation Officer Maria C. Cruz made the recommendation after finding that Leon Guerrero is unable to complete 300 hours of community work service given his schedule.

Leon Guerrero had already completed the five-year jail sentence. In June 2008, he began serving his term of supervised release in Guam. His supervised release is set to end on June 19, 2011.

Cruz said Leon Guerrero informed her last January that he is in the process of relocating to Texas to join his spouse, who is in active duty in the U.S. Army.

Cruz said the probationer stated that he is attending online computer classes to prepare him-

self for the job market in Texas.

The probation officer said Leon Guerrero is compliant with his release conditions as he completed his mental health treatment and is paying his restitution.

As of Feb. 2, 2011, the U.S. government's records show that Leon Guerrero's restitution balance is \$286,129.29, which includes interest.

Leon Guerrero's co-defendants John Peter Reyes Mendiola and Andrew K. Quiambao were sentenced in 2004 to 37 months in prison.

The defendants, all residents of Guam, were ordered to pay restitution jointly for \$567,396.

Court records show that on Feb. 7, 2004, Mendiola and Quiambao, using gasoline, set fire to the i-Connect facility, which together with the FBI equipment and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration equipment, was destroyed in the explosion that followed. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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ment Command, published on 27 January, 2011, additional guidance giving installations 31 days from receipt of the guidance to be in full compliance with Army regulations addressing the display of state and territorial flags," Calcaro said in a Feb. 1 letter to Sablan.

Sablan brought the matter to the attention of Army Secretary John M. McHugh in November last year.

McHugh responded to Sablan's letter in December, apologizing for the oversight, but said such oversight does not reflect the Army's acknowledgement of and gratitude for the vital contribution of the CNMI to national security.

He directed Calcaro to survey all Army installations and confirm their proper display of a complete

set of state and territorial flags.

On Feb. 1, Calcaro wrote to Sablan, informing him of the result of the survey.

Sablan said yesterday in a phone interview that his office is thankful for the Army's latest action to correct the oversight.

He said men and women in uniform from the CNMI should receive recognition for their contributions and sacrifices.

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2010	Mazda Mazda3i	8,156	\$14,995	2005	Ford Taurus SEL	45,161	\$7,995
2006	Toyota Camry XLE	22,705	\$14,995	2004	Hyundai Santa Fe	59,873	\$7,995
2008	Mazda Mazda3i	39,098	\$17,995 SOLD	2007	Hyundai Accent	33,712	\$7,995
2006	Ford Escape XLT	87,769	\$11,995	2006	Hyundai Accent	38,801	\$6,995
2004	Ford Explorer XLT	90,030	\$10,995	2003	Kia Sedona	103,205	\$3,595

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ADB report: Climate to force Pacific migrations

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—Governments in Asia and the Pacific need to prepare for a large increase in climate-induced migration in the coming years, says a forthcoming report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Typhoons, cyclones, floods and drought are forcing more and more people to migrate. In the past year alone, extreme weather in Malaysia, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka has caused temporary or longer term

dislocation of millions. This process is set to accelerate in coming decades as climate change leads to more extreme weather.

"No international cooperation mechanism has been set up to manage these migration flows, and protection and assistance schemes remain inadequate, poorly coordinated, and scattered," the report states. "National governments and the international community must urgently address this issue in a proactive manner."

ADB expects to issue the report,

Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific, in early March as part of a broader ADB project aimed at increasing awareness of, and enhancing regional preparedness for, migration driven by changing weather patterns.

The report highlights specific risks confronting climate change "hotspots", including megacities in coastal areas of Asia. These hotspots of climate-induced migration face pressure from swelling populations as rural people seek new lives in cities. The problem is compounded by

greater dislocation of people caused by flooding and tropical storms.

"Climate-induced migration will affect poor and vulnerable people more than others," said Bart W. Edes, Director of ADB's Poverty Reduction, Gender, and Social Development Division.

"In many places, those least capable of coping with severe weather and environmental degradation will be compelled to move with few assets to an uncertain future. Those who stay in their communities will struggle to maintain livelihoods in risk-prone settings at the mercy of nature's whims."

On the positive side, the report says that if properly managed, climate-induced migration could actually facilitate human adaptation, creating new opportunities for dislocated popula-

tions in less vulnerable environments.

The ADB project, Policy Options to Support Climate-induced Migration, is the first international initiative that aims to generate policy and financing recommendations to address climate-induced migration in Asia and the Pacific.

To obtain a copy of the draft report, contact adbpub@adb.org or +63 2 632 6643. For further information visit www.adb.org/SocialDevelopment/climate-migration.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Fitial would have wanted HB 17-71 passed before he leaves for Washington, D.C. on Feb. 22, so he could discuss the matter with federal officials.

The bill, however, got defeated on a 9-7 vote.

Minutes later, the members voted to recommit the bill to Iguel's Health Committee.

Of the 16 members present, Dela Cruz was the only one who voted "no" on recommitting the bill to committee.

Other House members, including Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), said they support hiring more physicians, but said the House should not rush to pass HB 17-71 without input from the Health Care Professions Licensing Board, the Department of Public Health, medical practitioners, and other members of the community on the proposal.

The author of the bill, Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), was absent on Friday.

The other members were at a loss whether Iguel as chairman of the House Committee on Health received comments on HB 17-71, including from HCPLB.

Deleon Guerrero said House members need to hear first from health care professionals before making informed decisions.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) asked whether there's a committee report on the bill.

While the committee deliberated on the bill, it has yet to issue a report.

Frances Sablan, executive director of HCPLB, told House members that the board submitted its formal comment on HB 17-71 as early as Nov. 26, 2010.

She said the board does not recommend passage of the bill in its present form because, among other things, it does not ensure these foreign-trained doctors meet comparable U.S. requirements.

Sablan said the bill does not contain a provision that allows foreign medical graduates to take four years residency in the CNMI or any U.S. institution which is required under the J1 visa waiver program.

The board said it fully understands that at times the CNMI has experienced a physician shortage, and this may possibly be alleviated temporarily with the assistance of allowing foreign trained and non-U.S. licensed physicians to work in the CNMI.

"However, without serious modification in several areas of the bill, the HCPLB cannot endorse HB 17-71," said the board in a letter to Iguel.

Those who signed the letter were HCPLB chair Dr. Janet McCullough,

Ken Pierson, Pam Carhill, Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou, and Dr. Leticia Borja.

HCPLB, in its four-page letter, said HB 17-71 removes several basic requirements and conditions that the board previously developed.

"HB 17-71 is not nearly restrictive enough with regard to the required training, experience, credentialing, and verification of good standing that is needed to ensure that a comparable standard to U.S. requirements is met," it said.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) on Friday said hundreds of CNMI patients are referred to the Philippines, for example, to get treatment, yet the same doctors that are treating these CNMI patients cannot come to the islands to do the treatment here.

In a later statement, Santos said with the CNMI's depleting financial resources, cost of millions in funding referring patients to foreign countries such as the Philippines and Japan, and the lack of medical practitioners in hospitals, "it underscores the need to allow and encourage qualified medical professionals, including foreign medical professionals, to practice in the Commonwealth."

"Having said this, all affected stakeholders should come together and act on the foregoing issues in order to facilitate the passage of HB17-71 which seeks to provide quality medical/health care for every citizen and visitor in our Commonwealth," she said.

Credibility of licensing process

HCPLB, in its letter to the Health Committee, is also concerned that the bill's requirements could allow foreign-trained physicians "with little or no similarity to U.S. standardized health care training to be eligible to practice in the CNMI."

"We are concerned about upholding the credibility and integrity of the CNMI licensing procedures," the board said.

HB 17-71 says although the CNMI has consistently experienced a physician shortage, the Medical Professional Licensing Board (which is now the Health Care Professional Licensing Board) has not adopted any regulations for the licensing of medical professionals who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The board was created in 1982.

Iguel's bill says since the board has not adopted necessary licensing regulations, "the Legislature finds that it is appropriate for the Legislature to adopt appropriate regulations for the licensing of foreign medical professionals."

Deleon Guerrero, during debate on the bill, said even if the Legislature passes HB 17-71, it will still not allow foreign-trained doctors to prescribe

medication because of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration certification requirements.

"What good does it do? How does this law conflict with the CNRA [Consolidated Natural Resources Act, the law that federalized CNMI immigration]," he said.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) asked the Committee on Health whether they have done research on how HB 17-71 would affect federal health grants including Medicare and Medicaid.

The nine members who voted against the bill's passage were Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), and Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

The seven who voted for its passage were floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogunmor (Cov-Saipan).

Federalization

The board said it has considered many times in the past the question of allowing foreign trained medical professionals who do not possess current and valid U.S. licenses to practice medicine.

In late 2009, HCPLB passed emergency regulations to allow for the licensing of foreign trained medical professionals in order to temporarily alleviate a physician shortage within the Department of Public Health.

But the board said they were not able to implement the emergency regulations because of the impending federalization of CNMI immigration at the time and the uncertainty about the requirements for legal entry of foreign health care professionals into the CNMI.

The board said there were also questions relating to the eligibility of these individuals to be reimbursed by various federal health care programs.

"Immigration issues notwithstanding, the HCPLB has several serious concerns about HB 17-71. Allowing foreign trained and non-U.S. licensed physicians to practice in the Commonwealth us a serious matter which requires careful thought and research," the board said.

House members expect that the Health Committee will be able to look into all these issues, and recommend action on HB 17-71.

On the positive side, the report says that if properly managed, climate-induced migration could actually facilitate human adaptation, creating new opportunities for dislocated popula-

sum above the average monthly usage levels pay the higher rates. The more they cut use, the more they save. This cuts back on the CNMI's use of expensive imported oil," explained Malae.

It was earlier disclosed that the proposed base rate hike was filed and recommended in December, however, it was not acted upon by the commission. CPUC set a public hearing on March 18 and will consider making a decision in its scheduled special meeting on March 25.

Malae said CUC delayed the formal announcement of the petition because it wanted to see first if it could get funding from the grants and from efficiencies to mitigate the increase. But it failed in these efforts.

According to CPUC, CUC is currently operating at a substantial deficit, cannot borrow money, and relies entirely on the revenues from its customers and federal grants. The rate increases are critical in order for the company to maintain financial health.

resident status."

He said even their supporters like former representative Tina Sablan testified in support of granting status that provides pathway to citizenship. Others provided the same recommendation, including conferring U.S. citizenship. The media also quoted some of the testimony, but Syed said none was mentioned in the Senate draft report.

Florida-based human rights activist and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal said "the dishonorable draft (CNMI Senate) report mocks the purpose of a public hearing and is a slap in the face to democracy."

The Senate's draft report is now available online: <http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/resources/files/17thSenateDOIrecommendationFeb2011.pdf>.

It recommends a FAS-like status for eligible nonresident workers.

But only nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years by May 2008 could become eligible, and could only apply for a FAS-like status after five years or by 2013 under the Senate proposal.

The Senate will finalize its proposal after the last round of public hearings on Rota (Feb. 18), Saipan (Feb. 24), and Tinian (Feb. 25).

The FAS-like status proposal has been drawing different views. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is opposed to improved immigration status, but supports an extension of the umbrella permits beyond November 2011 for foreign workers to be able to remain and work in the CNMI.

CUC

From Page 1

that the rates must recover all the "reasonable and prudent" costs of the electric utility's operations.

Malae said the present rates do not cover all of these costs, and CPUC acts as a regulator or inspector to ensure that CUC is managed reasonably and prudently.

The CUC petition stated that the requested base rate increase would add to the monthly bills of customers: \$4.18 for residential customers using 500 kWh; \$28.30 for commercial customers using 1,000 kWh per month; and \$29.30 for government using 1,000 kWh per month.

"The proposed rate plan will satisfy U.S. District Court's requirements and EPA mandates, as outlined in the stipulated orders. The proposed rate plan also encourages energy conservation. Residential ratepayers who con-

REPORT

From Page 1

While immediate relatives of U.S. citizens have met the standards for change of status such as "green card," their income threshold prevents them from applying and granted a change in status, he said.

Sablan said other states already have problems with FAS status, which is what the CNMI Senate plans to recommend to Congress.

The final decision on granting improved immigration status or not rests with Congress, almost a year after the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended improved status for foreign workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for at least five years.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said they are concerned that the Senate included only testimony that would support their recommendation of FAS status, but not the recommendation to allow foreign workers to have other kinds of improved status.

"We provided oral testimony, and we submitted official written comment asking for pathway to citizenship or citizenship, but we don't see it in the report," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Page 8 of the Senate draft report states in part: "Nonimmigrant workers and worker advocates came to the hearings although not in the same number as the indigenous community. None demanded citizenship, or permanent

Another firm files protest vs PSS on network project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Another losing bidder in the Public Schools Systems' network project has filed a protest against PSS after it awarded the contract to Pacific Star Communications.

Megabyte of Saipan president Brian Clayton filed the formal complaint on Feb. 8, demanding that the decision be recalled because it was rendered with bias and favoritism.

Last week Marianas Wireless also protested the decision made by PSS procurement officer Robert Florian.

Marianas Wireless claimed that Florian employed delaying tactics to favor Pacific Star Communication and that he did not use the evaluation criteria for the project.

In a two-page protest letter, Megabyte's Clayton disclosed that winning contractor doesn't have a local business license when the project was

announced by PSS.

He claimed it was only recently that the company obtained the required local business license when PSS gave them the "time" to do so.

"Pacific Star Communications did not have a CNMI business license at the time of this bid submission date or previous contract awards," said Clayton, adding that this is clear violation of the local statute.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS awarded in 2010 a contract

to Pacific Star Communications for the "PSS Network Health Assessment" which is the evaluation of the "scope of work" for the "network design and installation of routing and switching equipment for PSS"—the contract recently awarded to Pacific Star Communications and now the subject of protests from losing bidders.

Clayton's protest indicated that the winning contractor has defrauded the CNMI government by not retaining the local business license here.

"CNMI and PSS procurement regulations have also been violated. Since Pacific

Star Communications was awarded the earlier contract, they should not have been permitted to participate in the bidding process for their own 'scope of work' that are within their own companies capabilities," stated Clayton's letter.

He also alleged that PSS failed to provide equal opportunity to all proposers to make a best and final offer for the project which was only provided to Pacific Star Communications and White Coconut Computer Services. Two remaining proposers—Megabyte of Saipan and Marianas Wireless were not accorded the same opportunity.

Clayton pointed out that as what CNMI law mandates, all bids must comply with local and federal requirements to ensure the bidding process is fair and non-biased or the bid should be retracted and re-bid under closer scrutiny.

In an interview with Florian last week, he said they are waiting for comments from all proposers on the protest filed by Marianas Wireless. All responses are expected within this week.

Saipan Tribune learned that RFP for the project was announced by PSS on July 22, 2010 and selection was made on Feb. 4.



PTSA FORUM

Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh addresses the crowd during last week's PTSA forum. The official discussed the important role of parents in seeking federal funding for schoolchildren.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Valentine's Day Sunset Dinner

Menu

APPETIZER

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Served with Local style titiyas

SOUP OR SALAD

Broccoli & Cheese Soup or House Salad

ENTRÉE

(Choose one of the following)

Grilled Chicken Breast in Strawberry Butter
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Served with choice of Baked Potato or Rice and Sautéed Broccoli with Pine Nuts

DESSERT

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IN CASE AGAINST EX-DETENTION GUARD

Lawyer: DNA test results on 2nd batch of samples also questionable

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's DNA test on the second batch of samples in connection with the case against former detention guard Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, also reached a questionable conclusion, according to Fitial's counsel Joseph Norita Camacho.

As this developed, Camacho filed yesterday a fourth motion to modify bail and set conditions for the pre-trial release of Fitial.

Camacho cited that with respect to the second batch, the FBI Laboratory concluded that Fitial and the alleged victim can be excluded as being the source of the hair obtained from Fitial's vehicle.

Camacho said to booster its case, the U.S. government on

Dec. 22, 2010 obtained a warrant to obtain strands of pubic hair from Fitial.

The lawyer said his client complied with the warrant and provided samples.

He said the FBI laboratory conducted the DNA test on the second batch of samples on Jan. 19, 2011.

Camacho noted that the FBI's DNA test on the first batch of samples also reached with "no conclusion."

"These test results call into question the strength of the government's case as to count III (enticement of a minor)," Camacho said.

He said the first batch of DNA test results dated Oct. 19, 2010 states in relevant part that

Camacho said Fitial will be placed on house arrest with an electronic monitoring device, effectively making the defendant in the most restricted form of release.

He said the U.S. Probation Office had already interviewed the mother and the common-law wife and found them as suitable third party custodians.

In addition, Camacho said, the jury trial in the case has been moved four times.

The lawyer said he learned that a judge may not be available in April to preside over the April 18, 2011 jury trial.

"If that is the case, it may require moving the jury trial date yet again," Camacho said.

Another reason, Camacho said, releasing the defendant into the two custodians will allow for more ease and access for defense counsel to meet and

prepare for the trial.

He said the Department of Corrections, where Fitial has been detained, has only two contact rooms in which counsel and defendant can prepare for trial," he added.

Camacho said defense counsel must make a written request to DOC and wait for approval before being allowed to enter the facility.

"In practical terms, only a

couple of hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the afternoon are the windows of opportunity to meet with defendant to prepare for trial," he added.

The indictment charged the 25-year-old Fitial with deprivation of rights under color of law and enticement of a minor for allegedly forcing three female wards to engage in sex acts.

Federal judge issues written ruling in dismissal of ex-CFO lawsuit vs UMDA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

specify his request in an amended complaint, and move to compel arbitration.

Saito, a Japanese national, alleged in the complaint that his termination in December 2009 was without cause.

Saito, through counsel Mark Scoggins, asked the court to order UMDA to arbitrate their dispute in accordance with the terms of their contract. He demanded damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Scoggins alleged that UMDA breached the contract with Saito by terminating him without providing the contractually required compensation and benefits.

UMDA then filed a motion to dismiss.

UMDA counsel Robert T. Torres asserted in the motion that Saito's employment contract expired on March 29, 2009 without any written renewal and without any approval by the UMDA board as was required.

In his opposition to the motion to dismiss, Saito alleged that his original contract with UMDA was set to expire on or about March 29, 2009, but that his contract was renewed on the same terms by then UMDA president and chief executive officer Russell Snow.

"For example, plaintiff's motion for summary judgment—seeking the court to rule on the merits of his breach of contract claim—is inconsistent with his request to arbitrate this dispute," said the judge in a footnote of her order.

Huff said if Saito is seeking to arbitrate a claim for unpaid deferred compensation under the original contract, he should

In her written decision, Huff agreed with UMDA that the express terms of the contract require that any renewal be in writing signed by both parties.

Huff said Saito's allegations that he and Snow discussed a possible renewal and the terms of that renewal are preliminary negotiations and do not show a manifestation of a willingness by UMDA to enter into a bargain on those precise terms.

"In particular, they are insufficient to show a manifestation of a willingness to enter into a complex multi-year employment agreement—including terms of deferred compensation and mandatory arbitration—that was previously memorialized in an 11-page written contract signed by both parties," the judge said.

In this situation, Huff said, Saito—as the chief financial officer—would have reason to know that no offer is intended, and that a further manifestation of assent in the form of a more definite statement by Snow or a written offer would be required.

"Instead, plaintiff has only presented conclusory allegations that the contract was renewed," the judge pointed out.

UMDA has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including airlines, cable systems, shipping, and resort properties. In 2007, UMDA announced the purchase from JAL Group of Nikko Hotel Saipan, now called Palms Resort Saipan. Last year, UMDA announced Palms' closure for renovation.

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Twelve complete workforce training program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve Rota participants completed the Workforce Investment Agency's Workforce Development and Certificate Training Program offered by the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute.

The participants were honored for their dedication and commitment in learning job

market skills that are valuable in looking for employment opportunities in a ceremony held last Feb. 5 attended by the participants' families and friends.

WDCT offers short-term training courses designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills and geared around actual work force needs and experiences.

These courses include Basic Work Etiquette, Customer Ser-

vice Skills Training, Resume Writing, Job Interviewing Techniques, and Communication in the Workplace, among others.

"These trainings are responsive to business needs often times for entry level positions within an organization," said WIA executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero.

Guerrero said WIA refers and subsidizes the participants who are in need of such skills

Last chance to see FOA Valentine's Day play tonight

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community members looking for a perfect date-night show this Valentine's Day still have a chance to watch the last staging of Friends of the Arts production "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" at 7:30pm tonight at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" is the second longest running Off Broadway musical with book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music by Jimmy Roberts.

It is a hilarious musical that wittily offers a funny, poignant, and refreshingly honest perspective on love and relationships, cleverly exploring the challenges of being single, dating, heartbreaks, marriage, and loss through the play's various vignettes.

The production, which was shown on Feb. 11 and 12, was directed by Susan Fishman-Tudor, with musical direction by Paul Dujua and line produced by Andrew Golden.

Saturday night's audience enjoyed a hearty laugh as the talented cast composed of Win-cel Mae Bubos, Darren Cajipo, Meredith Callan, Carlane Castro, Paul Dujua, Leo F. Goode, Jr., Jerry Loyola Jr., Ruth De Lemos Loyola, Wilden Mangahis, Keneisha Parks, Kimberly E. Parks, and Roseanna Sablan effortlessly took on their multiple roles and delivered laudable performances.

Barbara Sher of Voices of the Marianas said the show was one of the good productions of Friends of the Arts which deserve to have a good audience and be supported by the community.

"It was very clever and the very dynamic script was performed by very talented kids. The set design was well done—it was simple but perfect," Sher said in an interview after the show.

Retired school teacher Perry Conner said FOA's production involved great humor and a very enthusiastic cast list.

"I haven't laughed this hard. I hope that more people will take advantage of this kind of entertainment. It's one of the best kept secrets here on island," added Conner.

Scant turnout

Despite the funny script and the cast's amusing portrayals,



CLARISSA V. DAVID
One of the scenes during "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" last Saturday at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

FOA's production had to put up with the scant turnout of Friday and Saturday's shows.

Director Fishman-Tudor told *Saipan Tribune* that although the spectators who came to watch them were minimal, they will continue to stage productions to support the brilliant talents on island.

According to the director, their student members are very capable that they get recruited by colleges and universities in the U.S. mainland that focus on training for the arts.

"We believe in these kids. Their ability to get on stage and be involved in this kind of production is proof of the kind of talent that they have," she said.

Fishman-Tudor encouraged those who haven't seen the play to watch their Valentine's Day performance tonight. Tickets cost \$30 for FOA members, \$33 for non-members, and \$28 for students, all inclusive of a buffet.

Tonight's audience will also have a chance to win a one-night stay at PIC, added Fishman-Tudor.

FOA board member Harold Easton said their next production is "The Three Musketeers" scheduled toward the latter part of April.

Easton said auditions for "The Three Musketeers" will be announced soon and those who want a copy of the script may email thespians@hotmail.com.

UPS SCS (SAIPAN), INC.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE pursuant to 4 CMC § 4607 that UPS SCS (SAIPAN), INC., a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation, filed its Articles of Dissolution with Office of the Registrar of Corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2010.

All creditors of the claimants against the corporation are required to present their respective claims and demands in writing to the corporation so that it can proceed to collect its assets, convey and dispose of its properties, satisfy, and discharge its liabilities and obligations and do all other acts required to liquidate its business affairs.

A person filing a claim must state the description and basis of the claim, the relevant dates and the amount of the claim. Pursuant to the provisions of 4 CMC § 4607, a claim against the corporation will be barred unless proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five (5) years after the date of publication of this notice.

Claims and demands must be presented to counsel for the corporation, the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC, Tan Marakita Building 2F, Beach Road, Garapan, PMB 238 PPP, Box 10,000, Saipan, MP 96950, attention: Bruce L. Mailman.

Dated this 30th day of December, 2010.

MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
Attorneys for UPS SCS (SAIPAN), INC.

/s/ BRUCE L. MAILMAN

any individual seeking employment as they are required by employers in measuring an employee's knowledge and ability.

"When WIA participants complete their classroom instructions, they are subsequently accorded the level of WIA services such as subsidized work experience with employ-

ers," added Guerrero.

Guerrero said this is regarded as intensive service under the agency's program which provides participants real work settings where they can apply their newly acquired skills and continue to learn on the job that will lead to self-sufficiency and unsubsidized employment.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Workforce Development and Certificate Training Program from Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute from Rota hold their certificates during the awarding ceremony on Feb. 5. Joining them in the photo are Workforce Investment Agency executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, instructors, families, and friends.

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CNMI Health Digest now available

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The University of Loyola at CNMI has ventured into the publishing business with the unveiling of a new health magazine that focuses on educating readers about various health issues and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

CNMI Health Digest, a monthly publication that contains highly researched and easy to understand information and advice on health and wellbeing from actual healthcare experts, was launched Friday night at the 360 Revolving Restaurant.

University of Loyola chief executive officer and co-publisher Johnny Y. Fong disclosed that the *CNMI Health Digest* was the brainchild of his daughter, Jacqueline Fong, who serves as the magazine's editor-in-chief.

"Basically, we know that the community has a health crisis and it is a major concern for the government. My daughter

Jacque thought of the idea to come up with a simple and very easy to understand magazine that everyone can read," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fong said the company's first publishing venture was made possible with the support of the Commonwealth government.

"It's something unique. My daughter feels strongly about it and since this thing is in our realm, we did not hesitate about it," added Fong.

The 40-page January issue of the *CNMI Health Digest* encompasses different health areas, including adult, child, women, maternal, and mental health, as well as preventive medicine.

Fong said the magazine features articles from health practitioners at the Commonwealth Health Center and other private health facilities and educational institutions who will primarily comprise the *CNMI Health Digest*'s editorial staff.

"These doctors suggest the magazine's content because they will know what health is-

sues are pressing and important," he said, adding that they also welcome personal experiences such as those who have quit smoking or betel nut chewing and feature them in their future issues.

Fong said that unlike other health magazines that are too technical, *CNMI Health Digest* will be an easy read since they intend to promote the health magazine to students from both public and private schools.

The co-publisher said they will be working with all health-related government agencies and feature at least one per month, revealing that they will highlight the Woman, Infant and Children Program for the next issue.

Fong said they will have a true or false and essay contests in each issue to ensure students and other readers understand the magazine articles. Scholarships and cash prizes will be awarded to those who will submit the most number of winning entries for the year, he added.

The University of Loyola

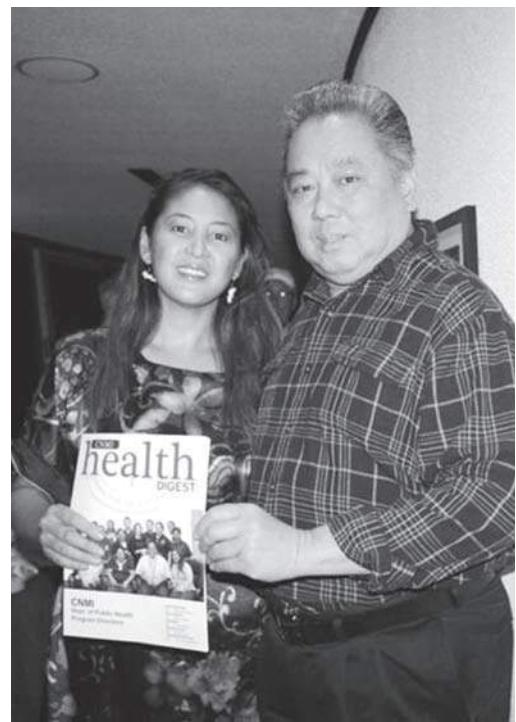
initially printed 1,500 copies of the January issue which can be obtained for free at CHC, private clinics, public and private elementary and high schools, hotels and spas, gyms, restaurants, and other places where people can sit down and read, said Fong.

According to Fong, they will increase their circulation to about 2,500 for the February issue which will be available in two weeks.

Fong added that the *CNMI Health Digest* will be readily available in a downloadable format in their website which will be operational in two weeks.

For the meantime, those who want to have a downloadable copy can send their request by email at cnnihealthdigest@gmail.com

Fong urged the public to read *CNMI Health Digest* which they would surely enjoy. "If they follow what they read there, it will help improve their lives. We're here to help, and if we could change one life, it would be great," he added.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
University of Loyola chief executive officer Johnny Y. Fong and *CNMI Health Digest* editor-in-chief Jacqueline Fong hold the January issue of the magazine during its launching at 360 Revolving Restaurant on Feb. 11.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
CNMI Health Digest co-publisher Johnny Y. Fong is joined by Dr. Christine Brown, Kaiser Home Health Agency medical director Greg Kotheimer, administrator Normita A. Cabalbag, and University of Loyola clinical instructor Jenifer Bahatan during the magazine launch on Friday.

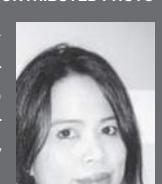
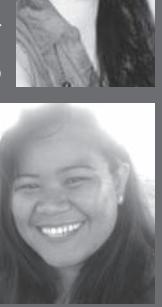


CLARISSA V. DAVID
Johnny Y. Fong of University of Loyola, second from right, is flanked by Public Health secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Commonwealth Health Center chief of staff Greg Kotheimer, and anesthesiologist Michael Koning during the launching of the *CNMI Health Digest*, a monthly publication that contains highly researched and easy to understand information and advice on health and wellbeing, last Feb. 11.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy fourth birthday Francisco Duenas Diaz and many more to come! Love from Mom, Dad, and the rest of the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday and Valentines greetings go out to Myrna Estacio Ortiz who is celebrating her birthday today, Feb. 14. May God continue to give you good health and a prosperous life. Enjoy your day. God bless! Greeting from the Posadas Family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY VALENTINES
Happy Valentine's Day to Luna Litulumar. Enjoy your day and be safe. From Baby Boy and Baby Gurl!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 14, 2000

INS rejects visa waiver for Filipino accountants

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has rejected a request from the Philippine Consulate here for a Guam-only, single entry visa waiver for Filipino accountants taking the CPA certifying board examination in the territory in May. This was learned from Consul Julia Heidemann who said Saturday her office will coordinate with Capitol Hill for possible arrangements that can be made to allow Filipino accountants in the CNMI take the board examination in May. According to Ms. Heidemann, INS officials cited existing policies relating to the granting of U.S. visa to foreign nationals which require application and processing on their point of origin. The consul wrote the INS office in Washington D.C. assuring the return of non-visa holder members of Mificpa from Guam to Saipan soon after the examination date on May 4 and 5, 2000.

Gov't eyes equipment for water testing

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he is in favor of acquiring an equipment for chemical testing for the Division of Environmental Quality to help lower the cost of the required water testing. Mr. Tenorio has assured the business sector that the CNMI government will find ways to cut cost and still implement the needed requirement to protect public health by ensuring that their water is analyzed for microbiological and chemical contaminants. The business sector has asked the government to look for various ways to reduce the financial burden as most revenues have declined as a result of slowdown in the island's tourism economy.

Feb. 14, 2001

Bill to pardon convicts awaits governor's nod

Granting a wider elbow room for the members of the Board of Parole and a full capacity of the governor to pardon and exonerate a convicted felon, the House of Representatives yesterday approved amendments on Crimes and Criminal Procedures under the Commonwealth Code. The amendments sought by Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz through Senate Bill 12-102 was aimed at rectifying certain provisions that are seen to hamper the ability of the parole board to discharge mandates stipulated in the existing statutes. The bill now heads to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for approval following deliberations on the House of Representatives and a consensus from the Senate.

Private schools group gets corporate status

A little over year after it first organized, the Coalition of Private Schools-CNMI met on Friday for its first quarterly meeting of the year, which became special because it was the first meeting as a fully recognized corporation. Having tried unsuccessfully to become a non-profit organization, the Coalition had been working hard throughout the spring and summer of 2000 to get the Attorney General's office to grant them corporate status. The Coalition was officially incorporated on Dec. 18, 2000, and a big part of Friday's quarterly meeting was taken up with discussion concerning its corporate status and with preparation for the year in areas of legislation, educational issues, and ways to better improve the overall education of children of the CNMI.

Feb. 14, 2002

Legislature strips 219 govt workers of civil service status

In a process that Personnel Director Norbert Sablan described as secretive, hasty and irresponsible, the House of Representatives yesterday passed a bill that would, in effect, strip 219 government employees of their civil-service status. Two days after the upper chamber passed Senate Bill 13-15, the lower chamber yesterday green-lighted the measure on a vote of 15-1, with the lone dissenting vote coming from Rep. Oscar M. Babauta. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider was off-island, so House Vice Speaker Manuel Tenorio presided during the session. The Senate had voted 8-0 on the bill. Reports have it that Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed the bill into law last night.

PCB treatment resumes but not without EPA restrictions

The US Environmental Protection Agency has imposed certain restrictions on the treatment of PCB-contaminated soil in Tanapag, allegedly slowing down the process that resumed this week. Michelle Rogow, of EPA Region IX, said the operation by the ITD machine was allowed to continue at a much lower rate, while the treatment is being considered for final approval.

Committee primes for interview phase of search process

The Northern Marianas College Presidential Search Committee last Friday took steps to finalize their preparation for the upcoming interview of the candidates for NMC president.

In its meeting held on Friday, Feb. 11, 2011, the members of the committee reviewed and voted to finalize the questions that will be posed to the applicants advanced by the Association of Community College Trustees.

The committee also announced that of the 31 applications received, the ACCT will be transmitting the seven top candidates—who best meet ACCT's standards, criteria, and qualifications—to the commit-

tee for the interview phase.

The ACCT, a nonprofit educational association, was earlier tapped by the NMC Board of Regents to assist with the initial stages of the presidential search process. The organization has been credited for assisting numerous other colleges and universities with their search for a chief executive officer and president.

The total number of presidential applicants, 31, slightly varies from what was earlier announced. Based on information that the ACCT provided to PSC chair Andrew Orsini, the committee had last week indicated that there were a total of

28 applications received by the Jan. 15, 2011 deadline. However, that number was corrected to 31 by ACCT in a subsequent meeting with the Orsini later in the week.

"As I've mentioned before, we are glad to see that many individuals throughout the country have demonstrated their interest in this important position," said Orsini. "Now it is time to move forward to the next stage of the selection process so the appointment of the next president of the college can be made without unnecessary delay."

The PSC anticipates that the interview of the seven candidates advanced by the ACCT

Z. Bordallo said. "I commend the USO Caucus for bringing Members of Congress and Congressional staffers together to prepare care packages for our women servicemembers. Women in uniform are important to the mission and are often overlooked. We appreciate their sacrifices, and we are always thinking of them." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo helps stuff care packages that will be sent to female servicemembers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bordallo elected vice chair of Asian Pacific American Caucus

Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo was elected the vice chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

She previously served as CAPAC secretary since 2004 and was the chairwoman of the Health Care Task Force during the 111th Congress. As the vice chair, Bordallo will assist newly elected chairwoman, Congresswoman Judy Chu of California, and newly elected Whip, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa of Hawaii, in steering the agenda of the Caucus as it advocates for

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in Congress.

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus was founded in 1994 and is comprised of Members of Congress who have particular interest in promoting AAPI issues on Capitol Hill.

The caucus seeks to educate other members of the many contributions AAPIs have made and the unique challenges they face in our country. CAPAC also advocates for the enactment of legislation and policies that benefit the AAPI

community, and it works to promote and secure equal rights for all Americans.

"The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus has become an effective advocate for our issues," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "CAPAC has played a key role in Congress on major legislation such as the health reform bill in the past Congress. Our leadership team will continue the progress made under past chairman Mike Honda, and we will continue to be a voice for issues important to our communities." (PR)

Cope North Military Training on FDM Feb. 21-25

The Emergency Management Office said the U.S. military would be conducting Cope North Military Training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla from Feb. 21 to 25, 9am-7:30pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile

radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is

greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (EMO)

other members of PSC include: David Sablan, president, Century Insurance Co.; John Oliver Gonzales, executive director, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and NMC alumnus; Jesus Elameto, retiree and former Public School System administrator; Juanita Mendiola, former Tinian Municipal Council chairperson; Barbara

Merfalen, dean, NMC Academic Programs and Services; and Antonio Tiples, president, Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College.

The committee meets weekly and posts updates to the president search page on the NMC website. Updates regarding the search can be viewed by visiting www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Tinian Elementary School marks 100th day

Tinian Elementary School students, teachers, and community members celebrated the 100th day of school year 2010-2011 last Friday, Feb. 11.

The Student Government Organization hosted a Go Colts' pep-rally to mark this special day.

Students organized a cheering contest, which was won

by the fourth graders. Showing their love for education, parents, and other community members joined in the dancing and singing.

After the pep rally, the students returned to their classrooms where their teachers had planned special 100 Day activities. For example, the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The fourth graders make a perfect "T."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The fourth grader boys show off their dance moves in a packed cafeteria.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Parents, teachers, and students dance to an upbeat tune.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SGO governor, mayor, and friends demonstrate their leadership skills as well as their dance skills.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jenifer San Nicolas gets the crowd cheering and on their feet.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Egypt's finest hour

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Every lover of liberty will share in the exhilaration of the Egyptian people after the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak. A revolt by students, young professionals and workers ousted a dictator who had ruled his country in the guise of a democrat for 30 years. It may be that intervention by the military was the immediate cause of Mubarak's dramatic turnaround the day after he refused to step down, but there's no question that the primary authors of his overthrow were the Egyptian people. Friday was the climax of that rare thing: a popular and peaceful revolution.

How—and even if—that revolution will be translated into a broad-based, democratic government isn't clear. The Egyptian military, to which Mubarak ceded power, must enact constitutional reforms necessary for free and fair elections, and it must broaden the negotiations with opposition figures that began in the waning days of the Mubarak regime. It will be a profound betrayal—for Egyptians and their supporters all around the world—if the result of this revolution is another military dictatorship, even a "benign" one that clamps down on corruption and promotes economic reforms. As President Obama said Friday, the next step in Egypt must be "nothing less than genuine democracy."

Speculation about what will come next is inevitable as well as important. But it shouldn't divert attention from the immediate triumph—the astonishing accomplishment of the Egyptians who filled Tahrir Square day after day and employed both the age-old techniques of popular protest and the new tools of social media to rally their countrymen to their cause. The protest's timing may have been affected by the uprising in Tunisia, but it reflected long-festering discontent with Egypt's sterile and corrupt political order, its thuggish police force and its lack of opportunity for educated young people. The yearning for change would have manifested itself sooner or later. But no one could have predicted how powerful, and peaceful, such a demonstration would be. Not since the fall of the Berlin Wall has there been such a dramatic testimony to the desire for personal freedom.

Last month, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton offered some prophetic advice for leaders in the Middle East. "Those who cling to the status quo may be able to hold back the full impact of their countries' problems for a little while," she warned, "but not forever." Clinton said that the collapse of entrenched regimes would create a vacuum that would be filled by extremists and terrorist groups. But in Egypt there is another alternative: citizens determined to establish democracy. Their triumph is a rebuke to cynics who believed Egypt was incapable of transformation—and an achievement the Egyptian army must not dishonor.



"LET'S JUST HOPE HE'S NOT REPLACED BY SOME KIND OF RADICAL."

What gifts should we give to our children?

Why do so many students lack a high school diploma in Saipan? Why do so many students with a high school diploma lack a skill or goal? Why are so few of them gainfully employed? These disturbing questions popped into my mind as I reviewed the educational records of the students enrolled in the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. Where have we parents and the community failed? What gifts should we be giving our children for them to grow into healthy, happy, and contributing members of our society?

Coming from parents that emigrated from Sicily and who worked hard all their lives, I sometimes reflect on the gifts that my parents gave my brother, sister, and me as we were growing up. The gifts were neither money nor property. Instead they instilled in us a desire to get an education, stressed virtues of life, coupled with a fierce resolution to succeed at anything we attempted in life.

As I work and live in Saipan, I am curious as to what gifts are we giving our children? What attitudes are we inculcating into their minds? When I hear that about 25 percent of junior high students never reach high school, and when out of those that do enter high school about 28 percent never graduate. I wonder what happened to them to cause such a drastic action as to dropout at such a formative age? What is in store for them in the marketplace and in society?

If you visit the Northern Marianas Trades Institute you will meet many of these lost young people I am referring to. Many lack the educational background and direction in life. Almost none have any job skills. It is obvious that they have been mentally and verbally abused as they were growing up. For example, this past week I read in the paper that one of the killers of the guard at Marianas High School admitted to smoking pot and using ice at age 14. Where were his parents and other guidance? He is now 18 years old. What kind of remaining life does he have to look forward to?

We parents must reflect on what are we giving our children. We parents must look into ourselves and find out what we are doing to cause this lack of motivation in them. Being a parent is the most complex and important activity on the planet. We are constantly saying: "Our children are our future." But what seeds are we planting in them?

We must understand that we parents are the first and most influential educators of our children. A survey showed that a child from the age of 5 years to 18 spends only 7 percent of his awakened life in a school. But 93 percent of his growing period is in the home and in his environment! Thus parents are their first and most important teachers. What are we teaching our children?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



I do not profess to know any better than other parents. I merely am suggesting that we examine what we are doing to our children. Do we realize that a child's need for character education is primary? Also do we realize that much of a child's character development is complete by the time they turn seven? Are we feeding our children any spiritual behavior? Or are we just feeding their stomachs?

As a single parent of three great young children, I am forced to examine what I am giving them. I am realizing that time spent together must be quality time. Also I must feed them virtues that will guide them when they and I separate.

Because raising children is a complex job, I wish to share with you a great book that is helping me to overcome some of my problems. The book is entitled *The Family Virtues* by Linda Kavelin Popov. From this book I have learned that my most important job as a parent is to pass basic virtues on to my children. I strongly recommend that all of us with children obtain this book. It will help teach us the language of integrity and self-esteem in our children as well as in us.

In this book we will learn the five roles we parents play in the lives of our children. We will discover ways to introduce sacred time and virtues into family life. And it will help our children to make moral choices. No, this book is not a religious book. It stresses the virtues that we all need to lead a happy and fruitful life.

How many of us adults suffer poor self-esteem that began with the sense of shame we experienced in our families of origin? As a result we struggle throughout our lives with deep feelings of unworthiness or inadequacy. How many times were we physically and mentally abused, feeling invisible, or feeling unloved? Do we recall the number of times we were called "stupid, lazy, and good for nothing?" Do we recall the number of times we were praised for proper actions? Consider if we aren't passing our disability and abuse on to our children?

See WHAT GIFTS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dear Abby from Ann Landers

By sheer arrogance and Pinoy machismo, we do not read Dear Abby or Ann Landers. The *Chicago Sun-Times* created the fictional Ann Landers and when the original writer died, another took over. The second Ann had a twin sister who then created Dear Abby, and began the estrangement that set the sisters apart and non-communicating for a long while. Not a good promo for sisters dispensing advice and counsel to equilibrate the passion of the mind and pacify the wild throbbing of the heart.

We did not have any reason to pay \$19.99 to the florist for a bouquet of flowers to effect domestic tranquility in today's observance of "I heart you" day. One consequence of our self-declared phase of curmudgeonality is the luxury of being able to ignore social niceties since most are founded on lies anyway.

"How are you today, Ms. Reyes?" I ask my neighbor. "Oh, I am just fine, thank you," she replies. She has a splitting headache and really do not think much of me, but truth or facticity is not the currency of our social discourse, we survive with lies, and worst, we lie about being in a perpetual cycle of lying. That is the grease that oils smooth social networking. It is embedded in our cultural memes.

A Chinese worker learning to be a home caregiver to the differently-abled refuses to take Chinese clients because she would lose face doing menial chores for someone who may not be a social equal, this from Mao Zedong's egalitarian society! Pinoys' perennial evaluative query before engaging in any activity is, *Ano na lang ang sasabihin nila?* (What will other people say?) White lies. We would not know how to survive without it. Of course, our island culture is an exception, especially our politics since that requires being truthful to kin and clan, right?

Anyway, "love" day has become a calendar event for the Chamber of Commerce, more for raising the bottom line \$-take than recreating the human sentiments that keeps many yearning for ecstasy from the wet trenches of despair. I purged the word out of my vocabulary when czarina for Pea Eye human settlements Imelda Marcos used the word to refer to the smoke-belching blue buses that plied Metropolitan Manila. But "love" as the all-purpose word to cover the transcendent agape, the cordiality and civility of *philos*, and the

WHAT GIFTS

From Page 10

Do we ever discuss with our children the meaning of virtues that guide us through life? These human traits must be taught. They are not inborn. For example, when was the last time we discussed "courtesy" and explained to them that it means to be polite and to have good manners? Then did we show them by examples how to practice courtesy?

"Consideration" is having regard for other people and their feelings. Wouldn't understanding that word help them to avoid bullying? Ask your child if he knows the word "courage." Then ask him to demonstrate it in various situations.

This marvelous book *The Family Virtues Guide* includes 52 virtues some of which are:

Caring, Compassion, Consideration, Excellence, Generosity, Excellence, Generosity, Helpfulness, Humility, Justice, Kindness, Love, Modesty, Respect, Self-discipline, Tact, Tolerance, Trust, Unity.

Each virtue such as "Forgiveness" is first explained. Than the question is asked "Why Practice Forgiveness?" The next section asks "How Do You Practice It?" That is followed by a section entitled "Signs of Success." The virtues are not about the practices or beliefs of any one faith but are sourced in the virtues which are the common elements of spirituality found in all sacred traditions.

In my family, the children and I review and discuss one virtue every Sunday. Then we test each other during the week on how well we practice it. Honestly speaking, I see a major change coming over the children. One change is that by discussing these virtues together, we now have standards to judge our action. Teachers and parents of the children's friends have begun to comment on an improvement in their attitude.

Please don't think that I am telling you how to raise your children. I am merely suggesting that we examine what we are doing to them. All of us can recall our fathers and mothers. What memories do we have of them? What memories do we want our children to have of us when we pass away? We need to guide and motivate them into constructive channels.

The end results can be seen in the schools, in the workplace and in the community. Merely loving them is not enough. We must instill qualities of life called virtues. Do not leave it up to the schools to do it for us. It is our job. Are we really doing our best? Are we teaching virtues that will guide them throughout their lives? Are we practicing these virtues ourselves? What gifts are we giving to our children? Isn't it time for evaluation before it is too late?

universally practiced but modestly talked about variations of eros, obviously will not do in our communication era of precision.

Ann Landers came to mind last week with one of her distinctions between "infatuation," or "love." Infatuation lacks confidence; when s/he's away, you wonder if s/he's cheating; sometimes you even check. Love means trust; you are calm, secure and unthreatened; s/he feels that trust, and it makes her/him even more trustworthy, she wrote. Hm-m-m.

Growth guru Joyce Marshall out of North Texas wants to banish the word out of serious resurgent Christian spirituality for a while; she enjoins colleagues who insist on using the term to at least consider that the Christian injunction is not just to "love thy neighbor" even without spine, but also to do so "as you love yourself."

Love of one's self involves tough love, not just the expression of good, pleasant and even noble feelings, but also establishing a relationship of trust, particularly in the area of truth and the field of justice and mercy. Were one to Google the word, more than half hits would involve the lewd, lascivious and salacious, which is not to be decried on a slow rainy day when one finds one's self just plucking the fuzzy hair on one's face after the electric shaver runs out of juice! But we digress.

Pediatrician Alice Dumla of Sydney down Oz pointed out that our Casablanca Ingrid Bergman, in her feminine wisdom, found a kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop speech when words become superfluous. Flying mighty high and higher, rocker Jimi Hendrix crooned, when the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace. The Lebanese Maronite Gibran Kahlil Gibran drank deeply in the Sufi well waxed meditative when he wrote, *Wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for*

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to Ambrose Bennet

Dear Ambrose,

I read your recent letter to the editor, submitted in both CNMI papers. I certainly agree with you that the team spirit and coaching leadership have been lacking and that the end result is a dysfunctional team.

That we could ever field a championship political team appears highly doubtful under the current climate. There are, however, several other points in your letter of which I feel need some clarification.

Regarding our Congressman Sablan (Kilili) you state: *I'm sure most people are asking why our delegate isn't living in the Mariana House and paying the CNMI rent money he is paying someone else.*

You imply that Congressman Sablan is responsible for the Mariana House not being utilized. First, the Mariana House is not at all the responsibility of the congressman; as you, yourself stated, it belongs to the CNMI, which falls under the responsibility of the governor.

Second, the congressman pays for his own small, studio apartment. This, I believe, is a first for any CNMI representative in Washington. He could waste the taxpayers money by staying in extravagant housing as has been done by his predecessors; rather, he is most prudent with government funds and pays for his own place. With your logic, it would appear that the congressman is culpable no matter which he does. Most folks would find it admirable that a politician pays his own way.

Next, you state: *The Senate is sending a resolution to Kilili to seek compensation to offset the economic hardship placed on the CNMI as a result of the implementation of the federalization law.*

This is what we should have done in the first place instead of a lawsuit. My only concern is that our delegate has not done the homework to justify this compensation. Again, you imply that Congressman Sablan is somehow at fault for this mess. The congressman was against the lawsuit. And, as you aptly state, the Senate is forming the resolution and requesting that the congressman bring it to the attention of the feds. It lies within the preuve of the Senate to do the study justifying the compensation as they are the ones making the resolution, not the congressman.

Your concern ought to be whether or not the Senate has performed an adequate study in support of their resolution which they are giving to the congressman to present in Washington. You write that Congressman Sablan should use his operating expenses to do a study on the impact of federalization.

Instead, he returned over \$675,000 from his first two years operating account. And you somehow feel that this is wrong? Ambrose, my friend, can you not see that the congressman actually returned money to the taxpayers?

Other than Tina Sablan, I can think of no politician who has re-

turned such a large percentage of his expense account back to the public. For this, he should be congratulated, not castigated. Perhaps you should request that the Senate use that returned money to fund such a study since it is their resolution. I, for one, admire someone who gets the job done and returns unused money back to the taxpayers. You feel that because Kilili is neither Democrat nor Republican he therefore has little influence in Congress.

His first two years have already disproven that notion. The people of the CNMI apparently are becoming more wary of the promises of political parties and prefer someone with integrity, honesty, and a strong work ethic to represent them in Congress.

Whether Republican, Democratic, Tea Party, Covenant, or Aliens from Outer Space League, it makes little difference what name you give, as long as the job is done.

Congressman Sablan is getting the job done, working with congressmen from both sides of the floor. I would see this as an opportunity for an independent to have more flexibility and to do what is best for all of the CNMI, rather than follow the agenda of one party (which historically ends up primarily benefiting the folks of that party).

Lastly, Ambrose, you write: *I want voters to know he (Kilili) totally ignored me because he was more against me than he was for the people. He was so arrogant and bent on making sure I didn't get credit because I was for another candidate so now everyone suffers.*

After reading your letter several times over, I sincerely hope that you as an educator are teaching neither English nor debate. Your conclusions to statements are illogical. Your grammar is less than stellar. Overall, it is a poorly written letter: however, after reading the above quotation I do believe I understand better why this is so. You are writing this letter out of anger, not out of reason.

You sound more like a bully in a school yard who didn't get what he wanted; hence, he lashes out at others.

Ambrose, my friend, you are the one coming across as arrogant. Think twice next time you write such ill-conceived statements about an elected leader who has demonstrated integrity and honesty; a leader who is working hard for the benefit of the CNMI.

And if you don't get what you want from Kilili then don't shoot the messenger or cry foul. No leader can satisfy everyone and money is extremely tight in this economy.

You are not the only person requesting a pet project. Maybe you should re-evaluate your pet project and come up with something more acceptable. That is what reasonable people do.

Additionally, a reasonable person would apologize for making such reckless and unfounded statements in a public forum, statements based on anger, not on any fact.

Bill Weiss

Via email



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▾76°

▲85° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▾77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▾77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▾76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▾78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▾75
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▾78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▾76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▾67
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲32 ▾15
Hong Kong	Showers	▲57 ▾50
Honolulu	Showers	▲77 ▾69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▾39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▾48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▾73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲82 ▾59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▾51
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▾30
Osaka	Sunny	▲44 ▾33
Paris	Showers	▲46 ▾37
Pusan	Sunny	▲46 ▾31
Rome	Sunny	▲59 ▾42
Salem	Showers	▲53 ▾41
San Francisco	Showers	▲58 ▾54
Seoul	Sunny	▲36 ▾23
Tokyo	Showers	▲46 ▾33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲46 ▾33

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:41 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
10:08 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet
3:14 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
11:04 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM	Today	2:11 PM	2:39 AM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM	Tuesday	3:11 PM	3:34 AM
Wednesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM	Wednesday	4:13 PM	4:28 AM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM	Thursday	5:15 PM	5:19 AM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:22 PM	Friday	6:16 PM	6:09 AM

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■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL288	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL288	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am						

Business

Obama wields scalpel to budget, avoiding much pain

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's budget submission on Monday will take a surgical approach to a deficit problem that his Republican rivals say warrants a meat ax. As Obama seeks \$53 billion for high-speed rail over the next few years, House Republicans are trying to pull back \$2.5 billion that's already been promised. He's seeking increases for his "Race to the Top" initiative that provides grants to better-performing schools; Republicans on Friday unveiled a five percent cut to schools serving the disadvantaged.

Monday's release of next year's budget plan will be likely ignored by resurgent Republicans intent on cutting \$100 billion from the president's old budget.

The GOP drive to slash 2011 spending and much of the savings sought by Obama involve just a small piece of the budget pie—the annual domestic agency budgets that make up just one-tenth of federal spending. Tea party-backed House Republicans are trying to slash tens of billions of dollars in such programs to return them to levels when



Obama first took office.

Obama's promise to freeze budgets of domestic agencies at 2010 levels for five years—an austere plan by itself—looks generous by comparison.

On Saturday, he promised the government will have to tighten its belt.

"This budget asks Washington to live within its means, while at the same time investing in our future," the president said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address. "It cuts what we can't afford to pay for what we cannot do without. That's what families do in hard times. And that's what our country has to do too."

But Obama is likely to ignore the most painful recommendation of his bipartisan budget commission when releasing his \$3.5 trillion-plus budget on Monday.

While Obama invited Republicans in last month's State of the Union address to sit down and seek a "bipartisan solution to strengthen Social Security for future generations," he won't offer any specific policy prescriptions on how to fix the program. The deficit commission offered politically dangerous ideas like raising the Social security retirement age, trimming future benefit increases and reaping more payroll taxes from better-off workers.

"I'm really disappointed," said House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., on reports Obama won't offer proposals to extend the solvency of Social Security. "Health care, I get it. We have a difference of opinion on health care. On this issue (Social Security) ... we're like 95 percent of the way there. We were so close. We weren't there yet, but we were close."

Gas pump prices highest ever for this time of year

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. gasoline prices have jumped to the highest levels ever for the middle of February. The national average hit \$3.127 per gallon on Friday, about 50 cents above a year ago.

The price is about 6 percent higher than on this date in 2008. The next day, pump prices began a string of 32 gains over 34 days. They rose 39 percent over five months, eventually hitting an all-time high of \$4.11 per gallon in July.

Although gas prices are expected to rise, most experts aren't expecting a reprise of 2008, when the price spike forced many drivers to join car pools and trade in gas-guzzling SUVs for fuel-efficient cars.

"It would be a mistake to think we're going to have that all over again," said OPIS chief oil analyst Tom Kloza.

He says oil demand will slide in the U.S. by May, as refineries slow fuel production while they switch to summer blends of gas. World oil consumption also may not rise as much as expected.

And Kloza contends that oil traders are more cautious now, after getting burned when oil plunged to \$33 per barrel in early 2009, just six months after hitting \$147 per barrel. Even the most bullish traders no longer think they can chase commodity prices higher without risk, he says.

Still, Kloza expects gas to reach

\$3.50 to \$3.75 per gallon this spring because of the usual run-up in prices ahead of the summer driving season. That would mean an increase of 12 to 20 percent from the current level.

Gasoline climbed almost 10 percent since November as oil prices rose because of factors including stronger demand from China, a frigid winter in the U.S. and tension in Egypt, Kloza said.



In this Feb. 3, 2011 file photo, the price of fuel is adjusted at a gas station in Lincoln, Neb. U.S. gasoline prices are the highest ever for this time of year. Since Jan. 1, pump prices have averaged well above \$3 per gallon.

The price of Brent crude, a key oil contract that also influences U.S. gasoline prices, hit \$100 per barrel in January for the first time since 2008.

"It was a perfect storm," said Kloza.

Oil prices retreated Friday after Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak handed over power to the military and left Cairo.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for March delivery fell \$1.15 to settle at \$85.58 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That's lower than the price on Jan. 25, when the demonstrations in Egypt began.

Investors have been concerned that the anti-government protests over the past 18 days could spread to other parts of the Middle East and disrupt oil supplies. Now that Mubarak has stepped down, the military says it will oversee a democratic transition to a new government.

"The market is getting whipsawed," oil analyst Stephen Schork said. "Everyone is playing the card that stability in Egypt is good for oil" shipments.

In other Nymex trading for March contracts, heating oil fell 1.49 cents to settle at \$2.6958 per gallon and gasoline lost less than a penny to settle at \$2.4652 per gallon. Natural gas lost 7.6 cents to settle at \$3.910 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude fell 50 cents to settle at \$100.94 a barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange.

Greece slams IMF, EU debt inspectors for hubris

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—An indignant Greece slammed EU and International Monetary Fund inspectors overseeing its efforts to reform its debt-crippled economy, accusing them Saturday of overstepping their role and interfering in Greece's internal affairs.

In an unusually harshly worded, pre-dawn statement, government spokesman Giorgos Petalotis called the behavior of the inspectors at a Friday news conference unacceptable.

"We have needs, but we also have limits. And we do not negotiate the limits of our dignity with anyone," Petalotis said. "We take orders only from the Greek people."

It was the first time the government has publicly struck back at the IMF and the European Union, which rescued Greece from bankruptcy but at a price that many Greeks consider too harsh.

The IMF, the European Central

Bank and the European Commission delegation said Greece must privatize euro50 billion (\$68 billion) in state assets and speed up structural reforms in the next few months to keep the country's troubled finances afloat. The IMF representative also said some of the frequent demonstrations against the Greek government's reforms were being carried out by groups angry at losing their "unfair advantages and privileges."

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou expressed his dismay at the comments to IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn in a phone call Saturday, according to his office. The statement said Strauss-Kahn had called Papandreou.

"Mr. Strauss-Kahn expressed his understanding for the spirit of the prime minister's remarks and his respect toward the Greek government and the Greek people," the statement said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Reopening of Egypt Exchange put off by 3 more days

CAIRO (AP)—The regulator of Egypt's stock market says the resumption of trading has been put off by three more days. The regulator says the market will reopen Wednesday, instead of Sunday, as initially anticipated. Saturday's statement said more consultations with brokers and companies are needed. The exchange was closed Jan. 28, three days the outbreak of an uprising that ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. In the two days before the closure, the market's benchmark EGX30 index had dropped almost 17 percent. The crisis has rattled international investors, prompting an exodus of foreign funds and raising worries about sharp fluctuations when the market reopens. Communications and banking services have largely been restored.

Minister: Brits don't realize painfulness of cuts

LONDON (AP)—A senior U.K. minister says his country's middle class still hasn't grasped just how much the government's spending cuts will hurt. In an interview published Saturday in The Daily Telegraph, Justice Minister Kenneth Clarke said "middle England" had still not quite grasped what he

called the "calamitous position" of the British economy. Britain's Conservative-led coalition government is pushing through a wide range of spending cuts and tax hikes in a bid to control the country's burden of debt. Tuition increases intended to help plug the hole in the nation's finances have already led to violent protests. Clarke, however, says the full impact of the cuts will only begin coming home this year.

Hasbro pushes into Lego's land with new blocks

NEW YORK (AP)—Transformers fought for world domination in "Revenge of the Fallen." Now they're taking aim at Lego. Hasbro Inc., the No. 2 U.S. toy maker, is joining the building-block fray with a new line called Kre-O that's compatible with Lego and the similar Mega Blocks. The first products feature popular Transformers characters like Optimus Prime and Bumblebee. Kre-O, launching in the fall, is intended to grab part of the booming construction set business that Lego dominates. While total U.S. toy revenue rose 2 percent to \$21.87 billion in 2010, according to the NPD Group, building set sales jumped 13 percent. The line will launch with 12 Transformers sets. Hasbro plans to expand Kre-Os to its other brands eventually.

Nation

Obama welcomes commitments from Egypt's army

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama welcomed commitments Saturday from Egypt's new military rulers to eventually hand power to an elected civilian government and abide by a peace treaty with Israel.

A day after the resignation of Egypt's longtime leader Hosni Mubarak, Obama worked the phones with world leaders, reaffirming his support for the people of Egypt whose 18 days of protests led to Mubarak's ouster. Obama pledged U.S. assistance and financial support as Egypt moves toward free and fair elections, the White House said.

Egypt's military is now running the country following Mubarak's resignation. Its pledges Saturday to follow the international treaties the Mubarak government entered into were lauded not only in the U.S., but also in Israel, where leaders were concerned the turmoil in Egypt could threaten the peace accord between the

two countries. Egypt's military strongly supports the peace deal, not in small part because it guarantees U.S. aid for the armed forces, currently running at \$1.3 billion a year.

Meantime, Obama administration officials were still sorting through the frenetic final hours leading up to Mubarak's resignation Friday. U.S. officials had expected Mubarak to step down a day earlier, but were caught off guard when Mubarak instead issued a rambling statement on Egyptian state television in which he vowed to stay in office, but transfer authority to Vice President Omar Suleiman.

U.S. assumptions were based on contacts Thursday with several Egyptian officials who said Mubarak planned to make a dramatic statement later that day, and hinted that he would resign, a senior Obama administration official said. That included a call between Vice President Joe Biden and Suleiman that set high expectations for what

Mubarak would say.

Obama was briefed on these developments as he traveled to Marquette, Mich., to deliver a speech on wireless Internet access. Anticipating substantial developments out of Cairo, aides decided to insert a brief statement at the top of Obama's remarks to place him squarely on the side of the crowds calling for Mubarak's ouster.

"What is absolutely clear is that we are witnessing history unfold," Obama said Thursday. "It's a moment of transformation that's taking place because the people of Egypt are calling for change."

Even as Obama spoke, there were signs that Mubarak might not resign. The administration official said guidance from Egyptian sources was not consistent, and there was confusion in Egypt's government.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to speak about internal administration matters.

Obama, traveling back to

Washington on Air Force One, watched Mubarak announce that he was staying in office. Back at the White House, the president immediately convened a meeting of his national security team in the Oval Office; aides described the president as upset because Mubarak's words

had the potential to stir violence.

At the same time, U.S. officials were receiving indications that Mubarak would head to his retreat in Sharm el-Sheikh. They read the move as a sign he might resign after all, leading the White House to issue a written statement from Obama

late Thursday rather than have him speak before television cameras.

Friday was seen as a pivotal day. The official said Obama was preparing to have to speak on the matter in person, reacting either to more violence or Mubarak's resignation.

Police: Man kills 4 in stabbing rampage across NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A graffiti artist armed with five knives went on a bloody 28-hour rampage across New York City, fatally stabbing his stepfather, ex-girlfriend and her mother, running down a pedestrian with a stolen Lexus and knifing a subway passenger before being arrested in Times Square, police said.

Maksim Gelman, 23, was armed with a bloodied kitchen knife when he was taken into police custody at about 9 a.m. Saturday after a nightlong manhunt from Brooklyn into Manhattan, police said.

"It's so horrendous and bizarre. We have no reason to know why he did this," said police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, who held up a photo of the knife that he said Gelman had used to slash the subway rider on the head and neck. The man survived.

"I don't recall seeing anything like this," said Kelly, who has spent decades working for the New York Police Department.

He said charges were pending against Gelman.

The stabbing spree started just after 5 a.m. Friday, when police say Gelman fatally knifed his stepfather, Aleksandr Kuznetsov, at their apartment

in Brooklyn's Sheepshead Bay neighborhood. Gelman had gotten into a fight with his mother after she refused to allow him to use her Lexus, and Kuznetsov intervened and was attacked, Kelly said.

Police found the 54-year-old man's body at his home in the predominantly Eastern European immigrant neighborhood. The Ukrainian-born Gelman and his mother became naturalized U.S. citizens in 2004 or 2005, Kelly said.

At about 10:30 a.m., several blocks away, Gelman entered the home of his ex-girlfriend and used a kitchen knife to fatally stab her mother, 56-year-old Anna Bulchenko, Kelly

AP

In this undated photo released by the New York City Police Department, Maksim Gelman is shown.

in Brooklyn's Sheepshead Bay neighborhood. Gelman had gotten into a fight with his mother after she refused to allow him to use her Lexus, and Kuznetsov intervened and was attacked, Kelly said.

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At about 10:30 a.m., several blocks away, Gelman entered the home of his ex-girlfriend and used a kitchen knife to fatally stab her mother, 56-year-old Anna Bulchenko, Kelly

said. When 20-year-old Yelena Bulchenko arrived home at about 4 p.m., she found her mother dead in a pool of blood and called 911, police said.

Gelman apparently was still in the house, chasing Bulchenko as she fled outside and stabbing her 11 times as she died, Kelly said.

He then sped away in the Lexus to Brooklyn's Midwood neighborhood, rear-ending a Pontiac. The driver confronted Gelman and was stabbed three times in the chest but survived and was in stable condition, Kelly said.

Gelman drove off in the Pontiac, hitting 62-year-old pedestrian Stephen Tanenbaum, who died of the injuries, police said. He later abandoned the car, engine running, in the driveway of a private house in Midwood, not far from a freight railroad line where "Gelman frequented as a graffiti artist," Kelly said.

Gelman was not seen again until just before 1 a.m. Saturday, when he confronted a livery cab driver in the Crown Heights area and stabbed him, Kelly said. Shortly after, he approached a couple in a Nissan, stabbing the man multiple times in the hand before hijacking the car, police said. Both men survived.

ACROSS THE NATION

25 injured when taxi plows into crowd in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A taxi driver plowed slowly through a crowd on a sidewalk in a popular restaurant and nightclub zone early Saturday, severing the leg of one woman and injuring more than two dozen other people, police said. The crash occurred about 2 a.m. in the heart of the busy Gaslamp District as revelers were heading home, according to police Sgt. Ray Battrick. Witnesses said the cab was traveling around 15 miles an hour. The driver sustained a broken nose after being beaten by people in the crowd, who also smashed windows on the taxi, Battrick said. Security guards from a nearby nightclub intervened and detained the driver until police arrived, and he was transported to a hospital.

Los Angeles priest removed for affair 40 years ago

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Catholic priest who admitted having a sexual relationship with a high school girl more than 40 years ago was removed from his position, and a high-ranking official who oversaw the background checks of priests resigned. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced Friday that the Rev. Martin P. O'Loughlin, who worked at Holy Name of Mary Church in San Dimas, was removed from

any priestly activities. The archdiocese said it was reacting to inquiries from a New York Times reporter researching an article about O'Loughlin.

Feds release San Francisco tiger attack documents

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A female Siberian tiger killed in a hail of police gunfire after fatally mauling a man at the San Francisco Zoo on Christmas Day 2007 likely was provoked into leaping and clawing out of its enclosure, a federal investigator said in documents obtained by The Associated Press. The tiger named Tatiana killed 17-year-old Carlos Sousa Jr. and injured his friends, brothers Paul and Kulbir Dhaliwal, leaving claw marks etched in the asphalt and claw fragments in the bushes outside its pen. Claw marks were also discovered near the top of the enclosure wall, which was lower than federal safety standards dictate, showing that the big cat was able to get enough leverage to pull itself out. "It appears the tiger was able to jump from the bottom of the dry moat to the top of the wall, and gain enough purchase over the top to pull herself out over the moat wall," wrote Laurie Gage, a tiger expert who investigated the scene for the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, which oversees the nation's zoos.



President Barack Obama's image is seen broadcast inside the White House Briefing Room in Washington, Friday, Feb. 11, 2011. Obama was making a statement on the resignation of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

McConnell says Obama agenda is 'over'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell declared Saturday that President Barack Obama's legislative agenda is "over," but said GOP lawmakers are willing to work with the White House to do what they "think is right for America."

In a speech Saturday night to a GOP crowd in his hometown, the Kentucky Republican derided Obama for performing "Clintonian back flips" to portray himself as a moderate, but said it's yet to be seen whether the new tone is "rhetoric or reality."

McConnell, who in the past has touted his ability to bring federal spending to Kentucky, took a hard line on cutting fed-

eral spending. He said the Democratic president's credentials on spending and debt "are horrible, and he earned it."

But McConnell said that congressional Republicans—who took control of the House and increased their numbers in the Senate following last year's election—are "prepared to do business" with Obama.

"And to the extent that the president wants to do what we think is right for America, we won't say 'no' simply because there's an election coming along," said McConnell.

After the fall elections, McConnell said Democratic senators facing re-election next year have a political motivation to join GOP lawmakers in pushing for spending cuts.

Asia

Pakistani prosecutors accuse Musharraf

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court issued an arrest warrant for ousted military leader Pervez Musharraf on Saturday over allegations he played a role in the 2007 assassination of an ex-prime minister and rival. It was a major setback for the one-time U.S. ally, who was plotting a political comeback from outside the country.

Musharraf, who has not been charged, described accusations that he had a hand in the attack on ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as a smear campaign by a government led by her aggrieved husband.

The stunning allegation that Musharraf—a self-declared opponent of Islamic militancy—was linked to extremists accused in the attack was likely to keep him out of Pakistan, at least in the short term.

His possible arrest abroad did not appear imminent, but Pakistan's information minister, Firdous Ashiq Awan said



Pervez Musharraf, the former President of Pakistan, talks during the launch of his new political party, the "All Pakistan Muslim League" in central London, in this Oct. 1, 2010 file photo.

the government will contact Interpol about seeking Mush-

arraf's detention if the court requests it.

Musharraf's spokesman said the former leader was in Dubai,

with no plans to go to Pakistan. Speaking from London, where Musharraf has lived in self-imposed exile, Fawad Chaudhry quoted him as saying that the accusations were "absurd and ridiculous."

Musharraf left Pakistan for Britain in 2008 after being forced out of the presidency he secured in a 1999 military coup. Though Musharraf does not have a large support base in Pakistan, he has vowed to return to lead a new political party.

Bhutto was killed Dec. 27, 2007, in a gun and suicide bomb attack after returning to Pakistan to campaign in elections Musharraf reluctantly allowed.

Musharraf blamed the Pakistani Taliban for the attack, but government prosecutors now say he was part of the plot.

"A joint investigation team, in its report to the court, has found Musharraf guilty of being involved in the conspiracy" to kill Bhutto, said Zulfikar Ali Chaudhry, the lead prosecutor.

He said evidence that Musharraf was "completely involved" has come from the Pakistani Taliban, and that prosecutors are seeking a murder trial.

Chaudhry did not elaborate, but the new accusations and arrest warrant stem from a case against two security officials accused of not adequately protecting Bhutto.

Musharraf has always denied any role in Bhutto's death and scoffed at critics who said he did not do enough to protect her. The Pakistani Taliban also denied targeting Bhutto.

Musharraf's lawyer said his client was innocent but had no plans to contest the allegations in court, where he's been ordered to appear Feb. 19.

"This is just a drama. It is all politics," Mohammad Ali Saif said.

Musharraf has not been indicted. The court is conducting preliminary hearings about the accusations, and prosecutors say Musharraf will have an opportunity to defend himself.

A U.N. investigation into the assassination said Musharraf's government didn't do enough to ensure Bhutto's security and that a sloppy investigation may have erased or missed evidence. The U.N. was not tasked with finding out who was behind the killing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan PM's approval rating sinks to new low

TOKYO (AP)—Support for Japan's prime minister fell sharply in a public opinion poll released Saturday, as a growing number of voters question his government's ability to lead the country through numerous pressing problems. Only 19.9 percent of respondents to the poll by Kyodo News agency said they approved of Naoto Kan's administration, a plunge of about 12 percentage points from a month ago, when Kan reshuffled his Cabinet. Almost two-thirds said they disapproved of the government. Many cited a lack of leadership by Kan, who also heads the ruling Democratic Party of Japan, Kyodo said.

Vast India census may help direct aid to poorest

NEW DELHI (AP)—Three weeks, 29 questions and more than a billion heads to count. India is busily conducting its 15th national census, with millions of government workers deploying across the country to tally its estimated 1.17 billion people and ask questions on housing, work and education that should give a clearer picture of the world's most populous democracy and its vast needs. It's a monumental effort. The census workers—most of them school teachers armed with clipboards

and computer surveys—are out negotiating skyscrapers, navigating farm roads and forest paths, visiting village huts and knocking on slum doors to find everyone they can before the census deadline of March 1. Anyone older than 15 must be questioned. "There is so little time," one census worker said, tapping his temple. "This mind will bifurcate in two pieces! But it is the national work. It must be done."

China's railways minister accused in graft probe

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese state news agency says the country's minister of railways is being investigated for "severe violation of discipline" and has been removed from a key political post. The announcement of the investigation of Liu Zhijun comes as the top leaders in the ruling Communist Party try to stamp out endemic corruption, which is a major threat to their authority. Ministerial-level officials are rarely targeted in corruption probes and the investigation of Liu is especially high-profile, given the huge investment China has made in high-speed rail service and the importance of the railway system in the country. Xinhua News Agency reported late Saturday that Liu had already been removed from his post as the railway ministry's Communist Party chief.

Wary China warns of Egypt 'chaos' after uprising

BEIJING (AP)—China's state-controlled media downplayed the news of Egypt's popular uprising that toppled its president, with some outlets carrying only brief items and one editorial warning Saturday that the country could fall into "chaos."

The reluctance to highlight the Cairo celebrations likely stemmed out of wariness of spawning unrest at home that might threaten the Communist Party's monopoly on power. China's authoritarian government relentlessly punishes political dissent and bans most public demonstrations.

Most Chinese newspapers and online portals were running

a terse report on Saturday from the official Xinhua News Agency that gave basic facts about President Hosni Mubarak's resignation while only briefly mentioning the widespread, emotional demonstrations that brought about his ouster.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said in a statement that China hopes Egypt can restore stability and normal order as soon as possible.

Internet censors continued to block the ability to search "Egypt" and "Mubarak" on microblogging sites as they have since the protests started, though the restriction could be sidestepped by searching for an abbreviated version of the former president's name, "Muba."

Most postings on the popular Sina Weibo site referred to the news in general terms

without connecting it to the political situation in China, though it's not clear whether more pointed comments had been deleted by censors.

"Today Mubarak stepped down, here we have been looking at these same faces for 20 years. When will they 'get out,'" one user wrote, using a coarse expression.

On Twitter, which is routinely blocked in China but popular among tech-savvy dissidents who are able to circumvent Internet controls, artist and government critic Ai Weiwei speculated on the possibility of a similar overthrow of Beijing.

PH rebels assure govt on rogue commander

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebel leaders have assured the Philippine government they are still in control of a rogue guerrilla commander who has rejected peace talks, the head of the government negotiating panel said Friday.

Marvic Leonen, chief negotiator in talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said rebel leaders have given assurances that they still wield influence over Ameril Umbra Kato, who reportedly has formed his own armed group.

Kato has resigned as head of a base command, but, instead of accepting a new assignment, he formed an armed group of several hundred men called Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters three months ago, Mo-hagher Iqbal, the chief rebel peace negotiator, has told The Associated Press.



In this photo taken on Thursday Feb. 10, 2011, former MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) guerrilla commander Ameril Umbra Kato, center, is surrounded by armed followers as he walks for an interview inside their camp at Maguindanao province in southern Philippines.

The peace process seeks to end the rebellion by the 11,000-strong rebel group that wants self-rule in a southern,

mostly Muslim region. It has stalled since Kato and two other rebel commanders led attacks in August 2008 on Christian com-

munities that killed dozens of civilians. They launched the attacks in response to a Supreme Court ruling that declared a preliminary peace accord as unconstitutional.

The government and rebels concluded on Thursday their latest round of talks brokered by Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

Leonen said the government formally "put on the table its serious concerns" over Kato and his group. They include the fear that Kato would stage attacks in violation of an existing cease-fire agreement.

The negotiator said the rebel leaders told them that they still have communication with Kato, he is still committed to respecting the cease-fire and has promised not to stage aggressive actions.

Leonen also said that during the latest talks in Kuala Lumpur, the rebels submitted a new draft of their negotiating position.

World

Protesters press for voice in Egyptian democracy

CAIRO (AP)—On Egypt's first day in nearly 30 years without Hosni Mubarak as president, its new military rulers promised Saturday to abide by the peace treaty with Israel and eventually hand power to an elected government. Protesters, still partying over their victory in pushing Mubarak out, now pressed for a voice in guiding their country's move to democracy.

The protesters' first act was deeply symbolic of their ambition to build a new Egypt and their determination to do it themselves: Thousands began cleaning up Cairo's central Tahrir Square, the epicenter of their movement. The sprawling plaza was battered and trashed by 18 days of street battles and rallies by hundreds of thousands.

Even as thousands flowed in to celebrate, broom brigades fanned out, with smiling young men and women—some in stylish clothes and earrings—sweeping up rubble and garbage. Others repaired sidewalks torn apart for concrete chunks to use as ammunition in fighting with pro-regime gangs. Young veiled girls painted the metal railings of fences along the sidewalk. "Sorry for the inconvenience, but we're building Egypt," read placards many wore.

"We are cleaning the square now because it is ours," said Omar Mohammed, a 20-year-old student. "After living here for three weeks, it has become our home... We're going to leave it better than before."

A coalition of youth groups that organized the protests issued their first cohesive list of demands for handling the transition to democracy. Their focus was on ensuring they—not just the military or members of Mubarak's regime—have a



An Egyptian Anti-government protester marches with a banner reading "the end" as he celebrates in Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo, Egypt Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011.

seat at the table in deliberations shaping the future.

Among their demands: lifting of emergency law; creation of a presidential council, made up of a military representative and two "trusted personalities"; the dissolving of the ruling party-dominated parliament; and the forming of a broad-based unity government and a committee to either amend or rewrite completely the constitution.

"The revolution is not over. This is just a beginning. We are working on how to move into a second republic," said Shady el-Ghazali Harb, the representative on the coalition from one of the youth organizing groups, the Democratic Front.

Protesters were debating whether to lift their 24-hour-a-day demonstration camp in Tahrir. The coalition called for it to end and be replaced by weekly mass demonstrations every Fri-

day to keep pressure on. But many in the square argued to remain. One man on a megaphone encouraged everyone to stay until all their demands were met, while others chanted "the people want the square to be cleared," referring to public grumbling that the protest camp is disrupting life downtown.

Many in the square were pouring love on the military: Families put babies on the laps of soldiers on tanks for photos, crowds cheered when a line of soldiers jogging by. But there was also realism that the military's ultimate intention is unclear.

"We don't know what they'll do, they might keep hanging on to power," said Muhammed Ali, a 22-year-old archaeology student who argued for the protests to continue.

With Mubarak gone, Egypt's future will likely be shaped by three powers: the military,

the protesters, and the sprawling autocratic infrastructure of Mubarak's regime that remains in place, dominating the bureaucracy, the police, state media and parts of the economy. Right now, the protesters' intentions are the clearest of the bunch.

The Armed Forces Supreme Council is now the official ruler after Mubarak handed it power on Friday. It consists of the commanders of each military branch, the chief of staff and Defense Minister Hussein Tan-tawy. It has not explicitly canceled the constitution drawn up by Mubarak's regime, but the constitution seems to have effectively been put in a cupboard for the time being until it is decided what to do with it.

The military seized power after pleas from protesters, and it has repeatedly promised to ensure democratic change, mak-

ing it highly popular with the movement. But on the face of it, the elderly generals are no reformers, and their move to push out Mubarak may have been more to ensure the survival of a ruling system the military has been intertwined with since a 1952 army coup. The deeply secretive military has substantial economic interests, running industries and businesses that it will likely seek to preserve.

The council of generals has said nothing so far about how the transition will be carried out or addressed the protesters' demands.

While it decides that, it sought on Saturday to reassure Egyptians and Egypt's allies abroad.

A spokesman, Gen. Mohsen el-Fangari, appeared on state TV in front of a row of Egyptian military and national flags and read the council statement, proclaiming that the military is "looking forward to a peaceful transition... to permit an elected civil authority to be in charge of the country to build a democratic free nation."

The military statement also said Egypt will "abide by all regional and international treaties and agreements, and commitments"—reassurance to its top ally the United States that Egypt's 1979 peace accord with Israel is not in danger.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the statement, saying the treaty "has greatly contributed to both countries and is the cornerstone for peace and stability in the entire Middle East."

Israel has been deeply concerned that Egypt's turmoil could threaten the peace accord, the first between an Arab nation and Israel. But Egypt's military

strongly supports the peace deal, not in small part because it guarantees U.S. aid for the armed forces, currently running at \$1.3 billion a year. While anti-Israeli feeling is strong in Egypt, few so far seriously call for the treaty's abrogation.

Also, the Supreme Council asked the current government, installed by Mubarak after protests broke out Jan. 25, and provincial governors to "continue their activities until a new government is formed."

It did not say when that would happen, but it seemed to imply the army would draw one up to replace the current one.

The move to keep the government of Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq in place appeared to be a stopgap measure to keep the state and economy functioning at a time when the country is trying to recover from the economic fallout of the upheaval.

For days, many businesses and shops were closed, much of Cairo's population of 18 million stayed home under heavy curfew, and foreign tourists—one of the top sources of revenues—fled the country. Earlier this week, even as businesses began to reopen on a wide scale, labor strikes erupted around the country, many at state industries or branches of the bureaucracy.

The Supreme Council statement asked the public, particularly the millions in the government sector, to "work to push the economy forward," an apparent call for everyone to return to work.

The military relaxed the curfew—now to run from midnight to 6 a.m. instead of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.—and the stock market announced plans to reopen on Wednesday after a closure of nearly three weeks.

WORLD BRIEFS

6 dead, 37 injured in attack on Mexican nightclub

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP)—Armed men opened fire and hurled a grenade into a crowded nightclub early Saturday, killing six people and wounding at least 37 in a western city whose former tranquility has been shattered by escalating battles among drug cartels. The attack in Mexico's second-largest municipality took place just hours after a shootout between soldiers and presumed cartel gunmen left eight people, including an innocent driver, dead in the northeastern city of Monterrey. Monterrey is Mexico's third-largest city. In the Guadalajara attack, assailants in a Jeep Cherokee and a taxi drove up to the Butter Club, located in a bar and restaurant district popular with young people, and sprayed it with bullets.

2 Cuban dissidents released from jail

HAVANA (AP)—Two well-known Cuban dissidents were released from prison Saturday, despite the fact both men said they wanted to remain in jail until other opposition leaders were freed and other demands were met. The release of Hector Maseda and Angel Moya means that just seven of the original 75 opposition figures arrested in

2003 crackdown remain in Cuban jails—but neither was happy about it. The decision to release Moya was announced more than a week ago, but he had refused to leave jail—saying he wanted ailing dissidents to go free first. On Friday, the Roman Catholic Church announced that the government wanted to release Maseda, but he too turned them down, saying he wanted authorities to exonerate or pardon him, not simply grant him parole.

Palestinians to hold elections by September

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The Palestinian leadership in the West Bank on Saturday promised to hold long-overdue general elections by September, a surprise move spurred by political unrest rocking the Arab world and embarrassing TV leaks about peace talks with Israel. In principle, elections could help end the deep political split between West Bank-based President Mahmoud Abbas and the Islamic militant Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, the other territory the Palestinians want for their state. Hamas immediately ruled out participation, saying the vote was meant to divert attention from the scandal caused by the secret documents uncovered by the Al-Jazeera satellite channel last month.

Security forces in Yemen beat protesters

SANA'A, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni police with clubs on Saturday beat anti-government protesters who were celebrating the resignation of Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and demanding the ouster of their own president.

The crackdown reflected an effort to undercut a protest movement seeking fresh momentum from the developments in Egypt, where an 18-day uprising toppled Mubarak. His ouster raised questions about the long-term stability of Yemen and other Western-allied governments in the region.

The United States is in a delicate position because it advocates democratic reform, but wants stability in Yemen because it is seen as a key ally in its fight against Islamic militants.

Hundreds of protesters had tried to reach the Egyptian em-

bassy in Sanaa, Yemen's capital

on Saturday, but security forces pushed them back. Buses ferried ruling party members, equipped with tents, food and water, to the city's main square to help prevent attempts by protesters to gather there. There were about 5,000 security agents and government supporters in the Sanaa square named Tahrir, or Liberation. Egypt's protesters built an encampment at a square of the same name in Cairo, and it became a rallying point for their movement.

Witnesses say police, including plainclothes agents, drove several thousand protesters away from Sanaa's main square on Friday night. The demonstrators tore up pictures of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and shouted slogans demanding his im-

mediate resignation.

Saleh has been in power for three decades and tried to blunt unrest by promising not to run again. His term ends in 2013.

Yemen is the Arab world's most impoverished nation and has become a haven for al-Qaida militants. Saleh's government is riddled with corruption and has little control outside the capital. Its main source of income—oil—could run dry in a decade.

Yemen has been the site of anti-U.S. attacks dating back to the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden harbor, which killed 17 American sailors. Radical U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, thought to be hiding in Yemen, is suspected of having inspired some attacks, including the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas.

Health & Fitness

Stroke rehab doesn't have to be high-tech to help

By ALICIA CHANG and
MARILYNN MARCHIONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The largest study ever on stroke rehabilitation found that doing physical therapy at home improved walking just as well as a high-tech treadmill program.

More surprising, patients who started rehab late—six months after their strokes—still improved. It's long been thought that there was little to gain from rehab after half a year.

"We now have evidence, for the first time, that a prolonged course of therapy will have benefits," said Dr. Jeffrey Saver, director of the stroke center at the University of California, Los Angeles. "For virtually everyone, we should be doing more intensive therapy than we are."

He had no role in the federally funded study, which was led by Duke University researchers and discussed Friday at an American Stroke Association conference in Los Angeles.

Each year, nearly 800,000 Americans suffer a stroke, and up to two-thirds of survivors have problems walking.

Sophisticated machines like robots and weight-supporting treadmills increasingly are being used, but there's limited research on how well they work compared to more traditional therapy.

Such equipment is popular in high-end rehab hospitals like the one in Houston where Rep. Gabrielle Giffords is being treated after her gunshot wound to the head.

The new study included 408 stroke survivors who had

trouble walking. On average, they took 1,700 steps a day; normal is 10,000 steps a day. They either traveled to a facility to get high-tech rehab or received physical therapy at home. Some began therapy two months after a stroke; others started six months after the stroke to see if there was a difference.

In high-tech rehab, patients exercised on a treadmill while their weight was supported by an overhead harness. As they gained speed and endurance, they could practice walking on their own.

In the home program, a physical therapist helped patients do exercises to improve strength and balance, and to walk every day.

After a year, both groups made similar improvements in how far and how fast they

could walk. However, the treadmill exercisers were more likely to feel dizzy or faint during training, and had a higher risk of falling.

What's more, fewer patients dropped out of the home therapy—3 percent compared to 13 percent in high-tech rehab.

"There's a tendency in our country to go to high-tech machines," but this study shows they're not always better, said Dr. Walter Koroshetz, deputy director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the study's main sponsor.

The bigger message, said study leader Pamela Duncan of Duke University, is that longer treatment and more treatment is best. She said many insurance companies allow 20 visits, while this study gave 36.

The care that stroke victims usually get now—less intense therapy for three to six months—does not get them to the point where they could be," Koroshetz said.

Doctors are working on a cost comparison, but believe the home program is much cheaper. High-tech rehab requires expensive equipment and two to three therapists per patient; the home program needs only one.

Also at the conference: Doctors may be missing "silent strokes" in a small but significant number of children with severe anemia, who may be unfairly labeled as slow learners when in fact they have a medical problem.

Strokes have long been known to be a risk for kids with sickle cell anemia, an inherited blood disease that mostly affects blacks. The new study found they also were occurring undetected in children with other conditions that can cause anemia, such as cancer, kidney failure or blood loss from trauma such as a car crash.

"I don't think there's any reason to panic," but doctors need to consider the possibility of stroke when treating any child with severe anemia, said Dr. Michael Dowling of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Dowling led the study involving 52 children at Children's Medical Center Dallas—22 with sickle cell and 30 with other causes of severe anemia. MRI scans revealed fresh strokes were occurring in four of the 22 children with sickle cell, and two of the other 30 kids. "Silent strokes"—evidence of damage but no obvious symptoms—were found in three of the 22 sickle cell patients and seven of the other 30.

Diet soda tied to stroke risk, but reasons unclear

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's far from definitive proof, but new research raises concern about diet soda, finding higher risks for stroke and heart attack among people who drink it everyday versus those who drink no soda at all.

The beverage findings should be "a wakeup call to pay attention to diet sodas," said Dr. Steven Greenberg. He is a Harvard Medical School neurologist and vice chairman of the International Stroke Conference in California, where the research was presented on Wednesday.

A simple solution, health experts say, is to drink water instead.

Doctors have no chemical or biological explanation for why diet soda may be risky. It could be that people who drink lots of it also fail to exercise, weigh more, drink more alcohol or have other risk factors like high blood pressure and smoking. However, the researchers took these and many other factors into account and didn't see a change in the trend.

"It's reasonable to have doubts, because we don't have a clear mechanism. This needs to be viewed as a preliminary study," said lead researcher Hannah Gardener of the University of Miami.

But for those trying to cut calories, "diet soft drinks may not be an optimal substitute for sugar-sweetened beverages," she said.

The numbers come from the Northern Manhattan study, which enrolled about 2,500 adults over 40 in the New York area from 1993 to 2001 through random phone calls. Half are Hispanic and one-fourth are black, making it one of the few studies to look at these risks in minorities, who have higher rates of stroke.

Participants filled out a standard survey about their diets at the start of the study, and their health was tracked for nearly 10 years. In that time there were 559 strokes or heart attacks, 338 of them fatal.

Daily diet soda drinkers (there were 116 in the study) had a 48 percent higher risk of stroke or heart attack than people who drank no soda of any kind (901 people, or 35 percent of total participants). That's after taking into account rates of smoking, diabetes, waistline size and other differences among the groups.

No significant differences in risk were seen among people who drank a mix of diet and regular soda.

Earlier studies have tied diet and regular soda consumption to greater risk of diabetes and a group of weight-related problems called the metabolic syndrome.

Some diet soda critics have suggested it can promote a sweet tooth, affecting behavior and how much of a person's diet comes from sugary sources rather than healthier fruits, vegetables and grains.

These sorts of studies just observe groups of people and are not strong enough evidence to prove risk.

"It's too preliminary to suggest any dietary advice," but other big studies should look at this question, Gardener said.

Greenberg, of the stroke association, called it "a real-world" look at possible risk.

Dr. Maureen Storey, senior vice president of science policy for the American Beverage Association, said in a statement that there is no evidence "that diet soda uniquely causes increased risk of vascular events or stroke."

"The body of scientific evidence does show that diet soft drinks can be a useful weight management tool, a position supported by the American Dietetic Association. Thus, to suggest that they are harmful with no credible evidence does a disservice to those trying to lose weight or maintain a healthy weight."

The beverage group's statement also noted researchers didn't adjust their results for family history of stroke. Gardener, the researcher, said that's not "a substantial weakness."

The same federally funded study also looked at a more conventional health risk—salt. It found higher risks for people eating more than 1,500 milligrams a day. That's the limit the American Heart Association recommends, but last week's new dietary guidelines from the government say it's OK to have a little more.

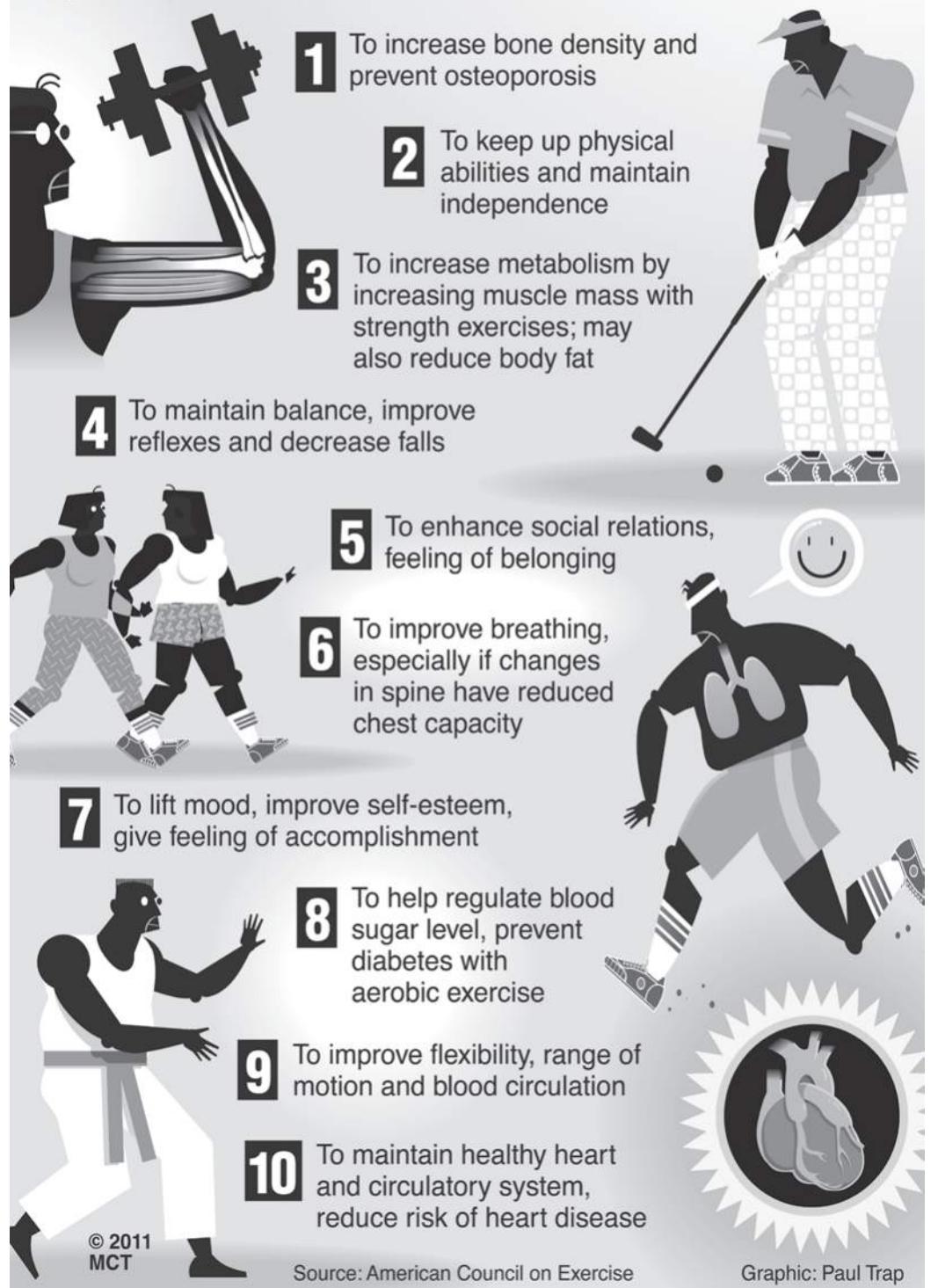
Researchers found that stroke risk rose 16 percent for every 500 milligrams of salt consumed each day. Those who took in 4,000 or more milligrams of salt had more than 2.5 times greater risk of stroke compared to those who limited themselves to 1,500 milligrams.

A teaspoon of salt contains about 2,300 milligrams of sodium. About three-fourths of the salt we eat, though, comes from processed foods, especially tomato sauce, soups, condiments, and canned foods.

Personal Trainer

10 good reasons to exercise

A mountain of medical evidence shows it's important for older adults to get plenty of safe, appropriate exercise; the top reasons:



Life & Style

Grammy weekend begins with Streisand tribute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stevie Wonder, Tony Bennett and a trio of “Glee” stars led Barbra Streisand on a musical journey through her nearly 50-year career.

They joined Faith Hill, Barry Manilow and Seal in launching Grammy weekend by honoring the Oscar-winning singer and actress as MusiCares Person of the Year on Friday night.

Streisand, who turns 69 in April, was singled out for her musical achievements and philanthropic work.

“I said yes because it’s such a wonderful organization that takes care of their own—the people who actually create the music,” she told the audience.

The evening’s standing ovations went to Wonder, Bennett and Streisand, who closed the show with what she called “the leftovers” of her hits at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Wonder played piano and harmonica on “People,” accompanied by trumpeter Arturo Sandoval.

“I want you to know when I was 12 years old, I said, ‘I wish she could be my girlfriend because she sounds so good,’” Wonder told more than 2,000 guests.

Bennett did “Smile,” a song he and Streisand dueted on in his 2006 TV special.



Stevie Wonder performs at the MusiCares Person of the Year gala honoring Barbra Streisand on Friday Feb. 11, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Streisand said, drawing laughs.

With Jeff Beck on guitar, BeBe Winans and LeAnn Rimes performed a bluesy version of “Come Rain or Come Shine.” Hill did “Send in the Clowns” and Manilow sang “Memory,” a hit for both him and Streisand.

“Neither one of us know what the heck the lyric means,” he said of the song from the Broadway musical “Cats.”

Later, Streisand said, “I think it’s about a vampire.”

It was a rare public performance for Streisand, who was introduced by Prince as “very simply the one and only.” She hasn’t toured since 2007 in Europe.

Backed by an orchestra, she sang “The Way We Were,” “Evergreen,” “Happy Days Are Here Again,” “I Finally Found Someone,” “Windmills of Your Mind” and another song from a new album she is currently recording.

Streisand poured herself a cup of tea between songs and gripped the mic stand with her left hand.

“I love music for what it does to the soul, how it elevates the moment, the emotions,” she said. “I love music for what it’s given me. It gave me a job when I couldn’t get a job as an actress. I love how music binds us together. It also reflects the times we live in.”

Streisand is nominated for best traditional pop vocal album for “Love is the Answer” at Sunday’s Grammy Awards. She will perform on the CBS telecast and be introduced by “A Star is Born” co-star Kris Kristofferson.

Friday’s dinner and auction

produced the highest grossing evening in the tribute’s 21-year history, Recording Academy president Neil Portnow said.

MusiCares, run by the Recording Academy, provides financial assistance to individuals in the music industry during times of need.

First Bieber, then Dylan at Grammy rehearsals



Justin Bieber poses at the premiere of the documentary film “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never,” in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Newcomers and seasoned musicians took turns Saturday on the Staples Center stage during Grammy rehearsals.

Pop star Justin Bieber and his mentor, Usher, kicked off with a medley that began with the 16-year-old best new artist nominee on his acoustic guitar, then launching into an amped-up version of his new song, “Never Say Never.”

Usher, a five-time Grammy winner up for two more awards Sunday, followed with his dance track “OMG.”

Both singers were backed by pyrotechnic effects and a stage full of dancers. Bieber’s number also featured fire-breathers, twirling gymnasts and an appearance by tiny 12-year-old rapper Jaden Smith.

There were no special effects during Mumford & Sons’ performance of their hit, “The Cave.” The seven-piece folk band, also nominated for best new artist, played acoustically on a bare stage, followed

by fellow folksters the Avett Brothers, who sang their song, “Head Full of Doubt/Road Full of Promise.”

String players from the two bands—guitarists, bassists, a cellist and two banjo players—joined with other guitarists to back folk icon Bob Dylan, a 10-time Grammy winner who is making a rare appearance on the music industry awards show.

The 69-year-old rocker, who wore jeans, a hooded sweatshirt and a knit cap to rehearsals, let out a guttural voice far larger than his diminutive frame as he sang his 1965 blues track, “Maggie’s Farm,” backed by a chorus of strings.

Other performers set to take the stage during Sunday’s ceremony include Dr. Dre, Rihanna, Eminem, Katy Perry, Barbra Streisand, Mick Jagger and Lady Gaga.

The Grammy Awards will be presented at Staples Center and broadcast on CBS.

Cee Lo, Seal give songwriting tips before Grammys



Cee-Lo Green attends Woman’s Day magazine’s Eight Annual Red Dress Awards in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011.

was also on the songwriting panel. He told a story about how his biggest hit almost didn’t make his album.

“It wasn’t edgy ... and (I) took it off the album,” he explained of “Kiss from a Rose.” He then said

a publicist friend convinced him to put the song back on the CD.

Other attendees included songwriters Bonnie McKee (Katy Perry’s “California Gurls,” Britney Spears’ “Hold It Against Me”), Claude Kelly

(Bruno Mars’ “Grenade,” Kelly Clarkson’s “My Life Would Suck Without You”), BC Jean (Beyoncé’s “If I Were a Boy”) and Chad Hugo, Pharrell’s partner in the production team, the Neptunes. Music producer Dallas Austin and BMI vice president Catherine Brewton moderated the panel.

Kelly also co-wrote Miley Cyrus’ “Party In the USA” and Spears’ “Circus.” He said writing for women isn’t complicated at all.

“I have a weird way of imitating anybody ... I can go in the booth and I can sing anything from a male perspective or female perspective without any problems,” said Kelly, who is also vocal producer.

Kelly, who is nominated for best R&B song this year for co-writing Fantasia’s “Bittersweet,” said he wanted to work with the former “American Idol” winner after seeing her perform live.

Machine was greeted by admirers when she walked in.

Welch says she’s excited about the Grammy week festivities.

Jay-Z is up for six awards at Sunday’s Grammys.

Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Will Smith have pre-Grammy brunch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay-Z laughed it up with Will Smith; Beyoncé stood close to sister Solange in a DJ booth; and Charlize Theron made a late entrance.

It was an ultra-exclusive affair on Saturday as Jay-Z’s

RocNation and Gucci threw a pre-Grammy brunch for guests including Rihanna, Adrian Brody and Ryan Phillippe at the Soho House West, where the emphasis was on mingling and grooving to the beat.

Solange was one of the celebrity DJs at the event, entertaining the crowd while Beyoncé and Solange’s young son looked on.

Best new artist nominee Florence Welch of Florence + the

Bruno Mars performs covers at pre-Grammy event

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Before singing his own songs, Bruno Mars performed a number of covers at a pre-Grammy celebration.

The rising singer-songwriter-producer started Friday night with a rendition of Celine Dion’s “My Heart Will Go On.”

He followed that with performances of The Outfield’s “Your Love,” Bobby Brown’s “Every Little Step,” Bell Biv DeVoe’s “Poison,” Montell Jordan’s “This Is How We Do It” and Jackson’s 5 “I Want You Back.”

Then R&B singer Monica came out, giving a top-notch performance of her 1990’s hit, “Before You Walk Out of My Life,” while Mars sang background.

Singer Keri Hilson also joined Mars for a duet of his latest hit “Grenade.”

With seven nominations at Sunday’s Grammys, Mars is just behind Eminem, who is up for 10 awards. Mars’ nods mostly come from his work on Cee Lo’s “(Expletive) You!” and B.o.B.’s “Nothin’ on You.”

Liz Taylor treated for congestive heart failure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor remained in a Los Angeles hospital on Saturday for treatment of congestive heart failure.

The Oscar-winning actress' condition was unchanged, her spokeswoman Sally Morrison said early Saturday afternoon. She did not know how long Taylor would remain at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

The 78-year-old Taylor first disclosed in November 2004 that she suffered from congestive heart failure. The condition

was compounded with other ailments including spinal fractures and the effects of scoliosis.

Taylor had been scheduled to attend an amfAR benefit gala Wednesday night in New York, where she was to receive an award alongside President Bill Clinton and designer Diane von Furstenberg, celebrating their dedication to AIDS research.

Elton John accepted the honor on her behalf.

The actress had near-fatal bouts with pneumonia in 1961 and 1990, and another respi-



In this Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008 picture, Dame Elizabeth Taylor speaks during the 26th Annual Macy's Passport to Fashion gala in Santa Monica, Calif. AP

Report: 'Spider-Man' caught in NY Labor Dept web

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York State Department of Labor has issued two safety violations against the Broadway musical "Spider-Man: Turn off the Dark," the stunt-heavy show that has been plagued by injuries to cast members, a newspaper reported Saturday.

Citing an anonymous state official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to release the findings, The New York Times reported that the safety violations were related to accidents last year.

The official said one violation involved an actor who fell more than 20 feet during a performance; the other was related to two performers injured while rehearsing a stunt in which cast members are catapulted from the back to the front of the stage.

No financial penalties have been imposed on the production, but state safety officials will perform surprise inspections from now on, the official said. Further violations could lead to the withdrawal of variances issued last year allowing aerial stunts that involve Spider-

Man and the other characters.

Labor Department spokesman Leo Rosales and show spokesman Rick Miramontez did not immediately respond to requests for comment by The Associated Press on Saturday.

Miramontez told the Times Saturday that the production would "continue to work with state officials to maintain the highest safety standards at all times."

The producers have 60 days to appeal the Labor Department's findings.

"Spider-Man" has become Broadway's most expensive show and its opening has been delayed four times since beginning previews Nov. 28. The show is now scheduled to open March 15.

The production is led by "The Lion King" director Julie Taymor, with music by U2's Bono and The Edge.

Cast members injured include an actor playing the web-slinger who fell 35 feet during a performance and suffered a skull fracture and cracked vertebrae, and a lead actress who dropped out after she suffered a concussion.

German film aims to counter integration gloom

BERLIN (AP)—A German filmmaker with Turkish roots is offering a sometimes comical account of an immigrant family's experience in Germany as an antidote to gloom about insufficient integration.

Director Yasemin Samdereli's "Almanya—Welcome to Germany" made its debut Saturday at the Berlin film festival, where it is showing out of competition.

It centers on a family drama unleashed by a Turkish grandfather's decision, 45 years after arriving in Germany as a "guest worker," to buy a house in his homeland, and looks back at his experiences as a new arrival.

Germany is now home to around 3 million people of Turkish origin. Samdereli said that over the years "a very, very negative perspective" of them has often been shown.

"We wanted to tell a story as we know it from our own perspective, and that wasn't so gloomy," the German-born 37-year-old told reporters. "There are examples of people who have developed, who know that their children ... will choose different paths."

In recent months, concerns over what many view as a failure to integrate immigrants and their descendants in society have taken center-stage in Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said last year that the "multicultural approach, saying that we simply live side by side and live happily with each other, has failed."



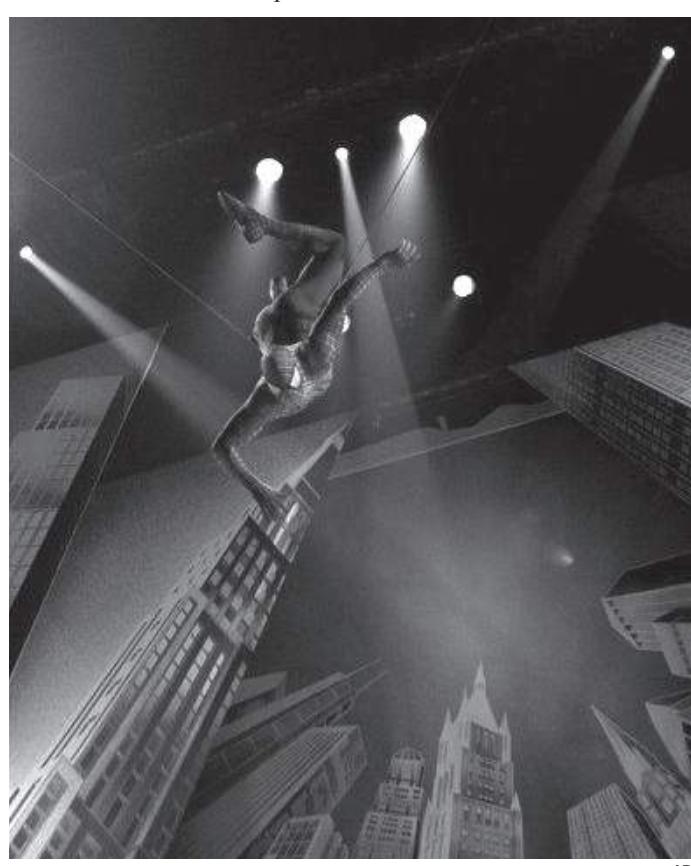
Turkish-German Director Yasemin Samdereli attends a news conference about the movie 'Almanya' during the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011. AP

Vedat Erincin, who plays the film's Turkish "guest worker," countered that "Germany changed these people a lot." Erincin, born in Turkey in 1957, arrived in Germany in his early 20s.

"The first generation who came here of course made mistakes, a lot of mistakes, but we human beings do make mistakes—just like our chancellor," he said.

"This (film) shows that multiculturalism has not failed," he said.

However, Lilay Huser, who plays his wife and herself has been in Germany for 33 years, noted that Turks living in Germany are viewed as foreigners both in their adopted land and their native country.



In this theater publicity image released by The O and M Co., the Spider-Man character is suspended in the air in a scene from the musical "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," in New York. AP

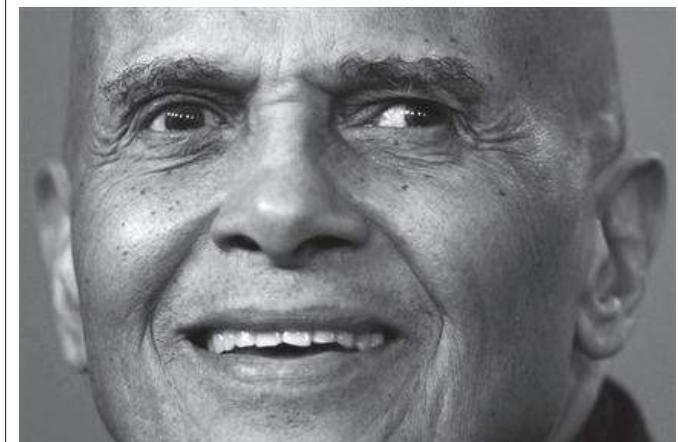
ratory infection forced her to cancel all engagements for several weeks in late 1992. Both her hip joints were replaced in 1994 and 1995.

She's also battled ulcers, amoebic dysentery, bursitis, and had a benign brain tumor removed in 1997. In recent years, she has had to use a wheelchair when out in public.

Taylor, who's appeared in more than 50 films, won Oscars

for her performances in "Butterfield 8" (1960) and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (1966). But she's been just as famous for her marriages—all eight of them, including two to Richard Burton—and her lifelong battles with substance abuse, her weight and physical ailments, including numerous visits to the hospital for more than 20 major operations and countless treatments.

Belafonte: Brando helped inspire documentary film



U.S. entertainer Harry Belafonte attends a photo-call about the movie Sing Your Song during the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011. AP

his youth to Brando, who died in 2004.

He says that little is known about the actor's work as a social activist, and when Brando died he was saddened not just at losing a friend and a great artist "but that also the history books had lost a story."

Belafonte says his daughter also was pressing him to make a film about his life and document the people with whom he has shared it.

Gritty US urban drama debuts in Berlin



Actresses Gabourey Sidibe, left, and Zoe Kravitz pose during a photo-call about the movie Yelling to the Sky during the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011. AP

starred in the urban drama "Precious," plays a supporting role. She said Mahoney's film "is not a perfect, pretty story" that is "trying to make you like it," but reflects many people's reality. She added that her own life "has never looked like anything Hollywood has produced."

Shot in Queens, New York, the film is based on Mahoney's experience growing up in a mixed-race family.

Adam Lambert learns the dangers of drunk tweeting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adam Lambert has learned the dangers of TUI: Tweeting under the influence.

At the Grammy Social Media Rock Stars Summit, the pop singer admitted that “drunk tweeting is not good,” and that when he has looked over some of his tweets from the past, he could see how they were offensive.

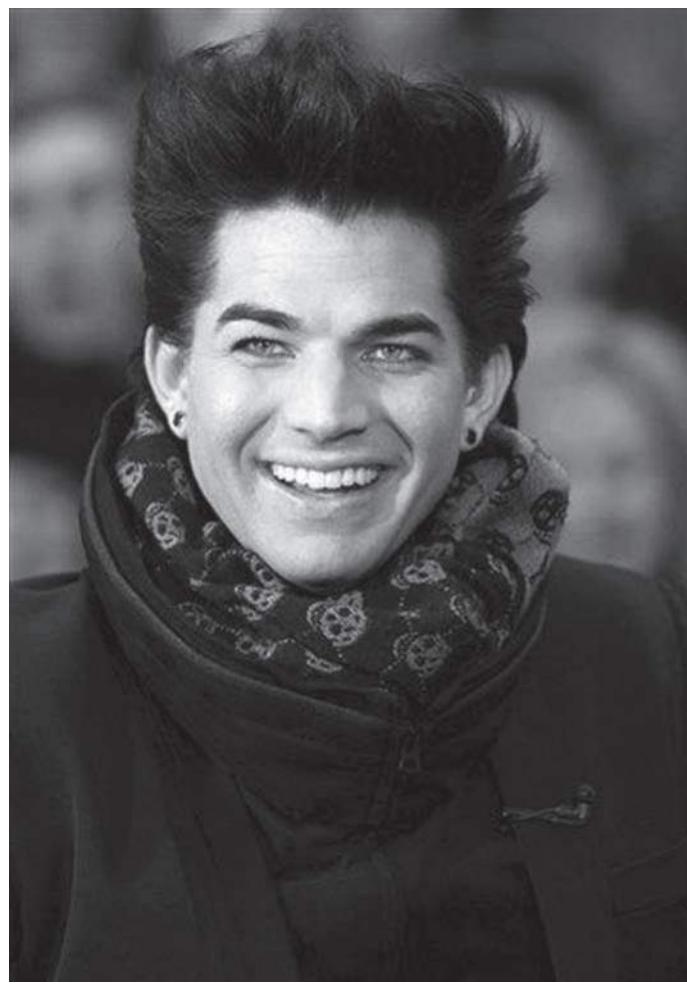
“You have to be careful,” Lambert said, who has over 860,000 Twitter followers. “Newspapers will quote your tweets.”

The former “American Idol”

runner-up also said that while he loves when fans take pictures and record video footage at his concerts, he feels like they’re cheating themselves.

“It’s (also) adding pressure on the performer ... since the stuff is up and everywhere,” he said. Lambert, 29, was joined by rapper Chamillionaire at the pre-Grammy event. Chamillionaire won a Grammy in 2007 for his No. 1 song, “Ridin’.” Lambert is nominated this year for best male pop vocal performance for “Whataya Want from Me.”

While the glam pop-rocker has a Facebook profile with



In this Nov. 25, 2009 file photo, singer Adam Lambert discusses his controversial “American Music Awards” appearance during an interview on CBS News’ “The Early Show” in New York.

Schwarzenegger says he's returning to acting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After seven years in the California governor’s mansion, Arnold Schwarzenegger is returning to his old day job: acting.

Schwarzenegger wrote on Twitter that he’s ready to start considering film roles again.

The former governor tweeted Thursday night: “Exciting news. My friends at CAA have been asking me for 7 years when they can take offers seriously. Gave them the green light today.”

Creative Artists Agency is a leading Hollywood talent agency.

Schwarzenegger’s personal aide, Daniel Ketchell, confirmed the tweet Friday morning.

Before leading the state of California from 2003 to 2010, the former body builder was the star of such blockbusters



In this June 17, 2010 file photo, then California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger attends the After-School All-Stars gala at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York.

as the “Terminator” franchise and “True Lies” and comedies like “Kindergarten Cop” and “Twins.”

close to 1.3 million fans, he said he has a personal page, too. Though that might be changing.

“It was hacked,” he said, adding that someone has also posted his pictures onto message boards.

Former MTV News anchor John Norris hosted the panel, which included Facebook’s director of platform product marketing, Ethan Beard, co-founder of Foursquare Naveen Selvadurai and Tim Wester-

gren, Pandora’s founder and chief strategy officer.

Beard said that because there’s a lack of record stores today, he’s hoping the connection between artists and fans are built back through the interaction on musicians’ Facebook pages.

“Music is social activity ... and buying music on iTunes is different than in CD stores,” Beard said. “(But) using social media makes it more social.”

Fox Network: No plans to hire Lindsay Lohan for ‘X-Factor’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan’s escalating legal woes have been accompanied by rumors about the future of her career.

But a spokeswoman for Fox’s upcoming “The X-Factor” says the talent show isn’t part of the equation.

Ann-Marie Thomson said Saturday that producers have not talked to Lohan (LOH-un)

about joining the show, despite online speculation that the troubled actress was being courted as a judge.

“The X-Factor” is the creation of former “American Idol” judge Simon Cowell. It is set to premiere in the fall.

Lohan was arraigned this week on a charge that she stole a \$2,500 necklace from an upscale Los Angeles jeweler.



Actress Lindsay Lohan appears in court during her arraignment on a felony grand theft charge at the LAX Airport Courthouse in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011.

LA County probes Playboy Mansion illness reports

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County health officials are investigating reports that dozens of people contracted respiratory illnesses after a fundraiser at the Playboy Mansion that was part of a larger conference held in Santa Monica.

The Department of Public Health issued a statement Saturday saying only that it was investigating a suspected respiratory infection outbreak among attendees of a conference on the west side of the county.

But the Los Angeles Times says the department sent an e-mail with a survey to all who attended the Feb. 3 event at the L.A. mansion, saying that they had received reports of problems including pneumonia.

Some 700 people from 30 countries attended the Santa Monica conference, called Do mainfest global.

Representatives from Playboy and the conference did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

Couple elated to discover their love is still true

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: After 33 years, I recently reconnected with my first girlfriend. We are both 49. I have been married twice, and she is ending a long relationship.

We have been talking and e-mailing, and she came to visit for a few days—no sex, just laughing and reminiscing about how we’ve grown since we were 16. It seems we have spent years looking for each other in different people. But now we want to be together for the rest of our lives. This may sound ridiculous, but we both know it’s true. Abby, is there such a thing as true love?



Dear Abby

NEW JERSEY LOVER

DEAR NEW JERSEY LOVER: Yes, there is. And it appears that after years of traveling down separate paths, you and your lady have finally found it. It’s not “ridiculous,” and it has happened to many other couples.

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, my daughter’s mother left me. She has moved on and remarried a year ago. I haven’t had a date in four years. I fell into a depression that is now affecting my relationship with my daughter. It’s hard to spend time with her without feeling low.

I lost my job, my driver’s license, my self-worth. I know I need to talk to a doctor, but lack of money puts me in a tough spot. As for family members, they are busy with their own problems. Please help.

DISCOURAGED DAD IN INDIANA

DEAR DISCOURAGED: If you can’t afford to see a doctor, then seek help from your county mental health agency or from a clergyperson. Many of them are trained to counsel those with personal problems — and if you need more help than your spiritual adviser can offer, there may be someone in the congregation who can provide what you need.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have different opinions about TV watching when we have guests. I was always taught that unless guests were specifically invited to watch something on TV, it is impolite to have it on. Having the TV on in the background is a distraction to the visit. What do you think?

TURNED OFF IN SALINAS, CALIF.

DEAR TURNED OFF: It’s rude to turn a television set on in the presence of guests because it sends the message that their company is boring. If a set is on when guests arrive and the host switches it off, it conveys that the guest’s company is more important than anything that’s being aired. And that’s an unspoken compliment that also sends a message.

DEAR READERS: It’s Valentine’s Day, a day guaranteed to bring joy to lovers and often a mild depression to singles who are not romantically involved. If this could be you, try this home remedy to raise your spirits:

Be a sweetheart and clean out your closets. Take any items you no longer wear (or can’t fit into) and donate them so someone else can enjoy them. Call your friends and say “I love you.” Bring flowers to someone in a nursing home. Offer to run an errand for someone who doesn’t drive.

Donate blood; pay someone a compliment; listen to your teenager; pray for your friends; or invite a lonely acquaintance—male or female—to join you for lunch. Obey the traffic laws. Do something nice for someone anonymously. And, before the day is over, resolve to be a “sweetheart” more often than just today.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

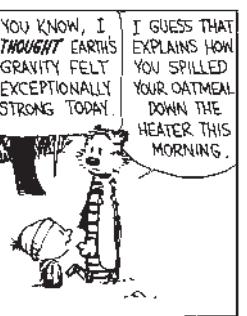
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Pastimes

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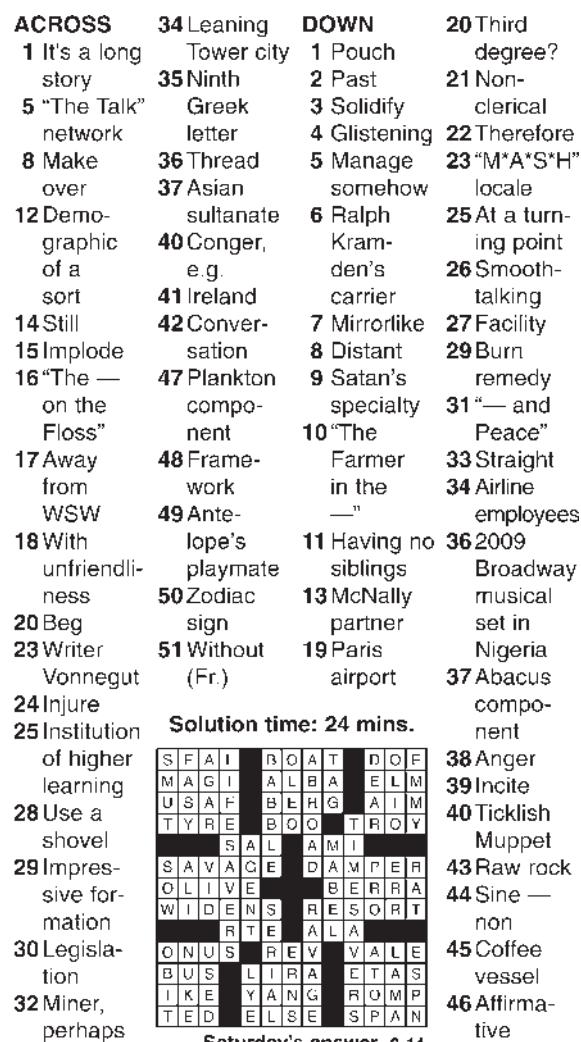


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FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011

Volume XXI, Issue No. 5

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INSIDE

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVIE VALLEJERA
jayvive_vallejera@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.

In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was passing the gavel to John Boehner (R-

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

Bobcats stun Hawks on Jackson's jumper

ATLANTA (AP)—Stephen Jackson hit a last-second jumper over two Atlanta defenders and the Charlotte Bobcats rallied after trailing by 22 points to beat the Hawks 88-86 on Saturday night.

Jackson, a former Atlanta player, scored 32 points, including the winning shot over Maurice Evans and Al Horford. Jackson hopped onto the scorer's table before running off the court yelling, "That's what I do!"

Shaun Livingston scored a season-high 22 points as Charlotte earned its first win in Atlanta since 2007. Gerald Wallace had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Bobcats.

Josh Smith had 28 points for Atlanta, which led by 22 in the second quarter and 18 in the third period.

The Hawks were 1 for 17 from the field in the first 9 minutes of the final quarter before Smith's left-handed jam and free throw tied it at 82.

Jackson's jumper gave Charlotte an 86-84 lead with 1:04 remaining. Horford's drive tied the game and, following a miss by Livingston, Atlanta called timeout with 23.8 seconds remaining. Joe Johnson missed a jumper, and the Bobcats controlled the rebound and called a timeout with 5.6 seconds remaining to set up Jackson's winner.

The Hawks led 70-52 in the third quarter before Charlotte regrouped with 14 straight points. The Bobcats' last lead was 7-6 in the opening minutes before taking a 75-74 lead early in the final period.

There were long runs in each of the first three periods. The Hawks had a 13-0 run in the opening period and then scored the first 18 points of the second period while building a big lead of 22 points.

The Bobcats, who missed their first 14 shots in the second period, recovered in the closing minutes of the first half and then rallied with a 14-0 run in the third period. Atlanta led 72-68 entering the final period.

Horford, the Hawks' All-Star center, had a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds after missing two games with a lower back contusion. He wore a brace on his lower back and needed to play through one period before gaining his confidence on offense.

Horford didn't attempt a shot while playing 7 minutes in the opening period, but he scored on an inside move to open the second quarter. Horford made his first five attempts, including four in the 18-0 run.

The Bobcats missed 10 straight shots in that span. Charlotte coach Paul Silas called two timeouts during the run, which ended when D.J. Augustin made two free throws with 5:31 remaining in the period.

The Bobcats' shooting woes continued until Jackson's layup with 2:26 remaining in the period ended the team's 0-for-14 drought.

Charlotte, while trailed by 22 at 51-29, scored 10 points in the final 2:26 of the period to cut the halftime deficit to 52-39.

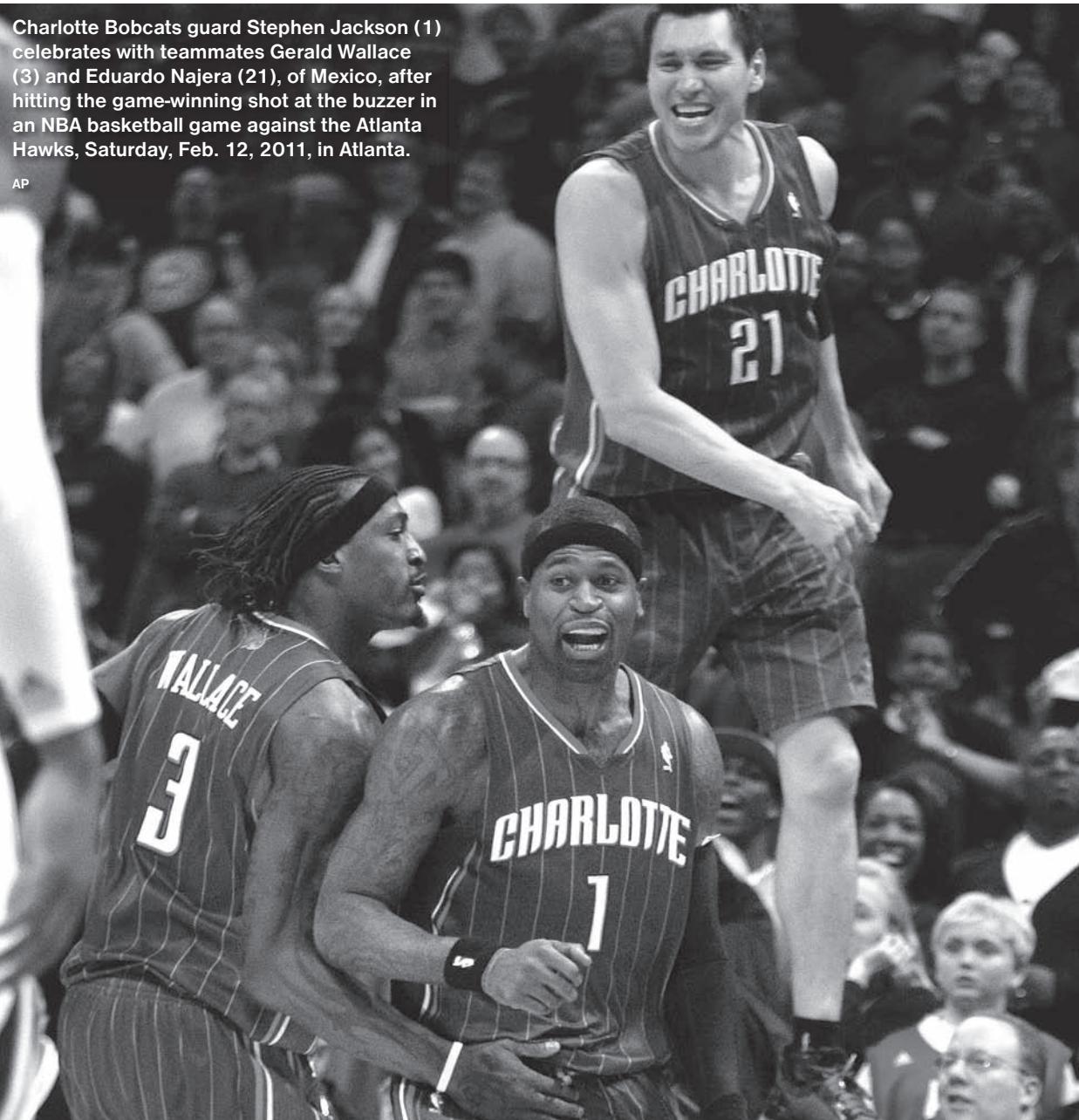
Wallace made three 3-pointers early in the third period, and the Bobcats cut Atlanta's lead to 70-66 with a 14-0 run later in the period. Horford's jump-hook ended the run.

Knicks 105, Nets 95

In Newark, New Jersey, Wilson Chandler replaced the injured Amare Stou-

Charlotte Bobcats guard Stephen Jackson (1) celebrates with teammates Gerald Wallace (3) and Eduardo Najera (21), of Mexico, after hitting the game-winning shot at the buzzer in an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, in Atlanta.

AP



demire and scored 21 points as the New York Knicks beat the New Jersey Nets.

Reserve Toney Douglas added 19 points and Landry Fields had 14, making three big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Knicks won for just the second time in six games and improved to 27-26.

Stoudemire missed his first game of the season with a sprained right big toe, but the Knicks overcame their All-Star's absence by making 16 3-pointers, including Chandler's that gave them the lead for good with 4:08 left.

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Wilson Chandler replaced the injured Amare Stou-

Devin Harris scored 22 for the Nets, who were bidding for their first three-game winning streak in two years.

Mavericks 106, Rockets 102

In Houston, Peja Stojakovic scored 22 points and moved to fourth place in career 3-pointers as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Houston Rockets.

Stojakovic, who was 1 for 11 from 3-point range in his previous three games, went 4 for 6 from beyond the arc. He has 1,723 career 3s and trails only teammate Jason Kidd (1,756),

Reggie Miller (2,560) and Ray Allen (2,562) in NBA history. Allen passed Miller for the lead Thursday.

Dirk Nowitzki also scored 22 points and Shawn Marion had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks, who have won 12 of their last 14.

Kyle Lowry scored 26 points and Kevin Martin added 17 for the Rockets.

Bulls 97, Hornets 88

In New Orleans, Derrick Rose scored 23 points as the Chicago Bulls methodically turned a 12-point third-quarter deficit

Bonds to enter plea for third time



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Bonds' perjury trial is fast approaching and the lawyers and judge are still scrambling to set limits and rules for the month-long proceedings scheduled to start March 21.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston ordered Bonds to enter a plea for the third time since he was initially charged in 2007 with lying to a grand jury about his steroids use. The new plea was needed because prosecutors the day before filed a revised indictment, cutting the number of charges Bonds faces from 11 to five.

Bonds is expected to plead not guilty when he is arraigned March 1, the same day the judge ordered the slugger's former trainer to appear in court. Illston wants Greg Anderson to reiterate in front of her and under oath his refusal to testify against Bonds during the trial. Illston plans to jail Anderson

son on contempt of court charges for the duration of the trial if he follows through on his pledge. Anderson's attorney, Mark Geragos, said Anderson won't testify.

What to tell the jury about Anderson's vow of silence was brought up during the hearing Friday. Even without his testimony, Anderson is still expected to play a large role in the trial. Prosecutors allege he supplied Bonds with steroids and instructed him on how to use them. Anderson's name and actions will be mentioned by others during the trial, including current Major Leaguer Jason Giambi and several former players the government intends to call to the witness stand. The players are expected to testify that Anderson supplied them with steroids.

"The jury deserves to be told something," Illston told the lawyers. "We owe them something about why he's not testifying."

Lawyers on both sides agreed, tell-

ing the judge they were developing a plan on what to tell the jury.

Illston put off ruling on the other major issue put before her Friday. Bonds asked her to exclude from trial a recording made by Bonds' former business partner, Stevie Hoskins. Prosecutors said the recording captures a conversation between Hoskins and Anderson while they stood in front of Bonds' San Francisco Giants locker in March 2003.

Prosecutors allege the two are discussing Bonds' steroids use.

Bonds' attorneys want the recording excluded because of Anderson's refusal to testify. They argue that the recording can't be authenticated without Anderson's testimony.

They also dispute that it can be proven the conversation is about steroids. One of Bonds' six attorneys, Donald Horgan, told the judge Friday that the conversation could have been about legal substances.

into a comfortable victory over the New Orleans Hornets.

Carlos Boozer had 17 points and Luol Deng 14 for the Bulls, who outscored the Hornets 25-14 in the fourth quarter to close out a five game road trip at 3-2.

Marcus Thornton had a season-high 24 points and David West added 17 for the New Orleans, which has lost seven of nine.

Spurs 118, Wizards 94

In Washington, Tony Parker scored 10 of his 18 points in less than 2 minutes during the first quarter to jump-start the San Antonio Spurs to a rout of the hapless Washington Wizards.

A day after losing 77-71 at Philadelphia, San Antonio bettered that points total before halftime.

The Spurs shot better than 60 percent from the field for most of the game, finishing at 58.4 percent, including 13 of 25 from 3-point range, and led by as many as 41 points. Every available San Antonio player had scored midway through the third quarter.

Cartier Martin and Andray Blatche each scored 16 points to lead the Wizards.

76ers 107, Timberwolves 87

In Minneapolis, Thaddeus Young led the 76ers with 18 points as Philadelphia cruised past the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Andre Iguodala had 15 points, seven assists and five rebounds, and Louis Williams had 13 points and five assists for the 76ers (26-28), who have won nine of their last 12 games to creep into the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Kevin Love had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves, his 40th consecutive double-double. But the Wolves shot just 36 percent to lose their second straight after surprising road wins against New Orleans and Houston.

Pacers 103, Bucks 97

In Milwaukee, Danny Granger scored 14 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter to help the Indiana Pacers end a six-game losing streak to the Milwaukee Bucks.

Darren Collison added 22 points as the Pacers improved to 7-1 since Frank Vogel took over as the interim coach on Jan. 30, replacing the fired Jim O'Brien.

Indiana's last victory over the Bucks was 115-108 on April 15, 2009.

Roy Hibbert added 13 points and eight rebounds for Indiana, which has won three of its last four road games.

Carlos Delfino, a reserve, led the Bucks with 21 points.

Thunder 99, Kings 97

In Sacramento, Kevin Durant scored 10 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter to help lead the Oklahoma City Thunder past the Sacramento Kings.

The victory was the fourth in five games for the Thunder. Oklahoma City took the lead on Eric Maynor's 3-pointer to end the first quarter and led the rest of the way in winning their fourth straight road game.

Tyreke Evans had 30 points and nine rebounds for the Kings, who have lost five straight. The Kings have the second-worst home record (7-22) in the NBA behind the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Russell Westbrook had 22 points and seven assists for the Thunder.

Marino hangs onto the lead at Pebble



PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—The best break for Steve Marino might have come moments after he finished his round Saturday at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, nowhere near where he had just three-putted from 4 feet for a bogey.

Across the Del Monte Forest, where the crowds gathered in sunshine to watch the celebrity show at Pebble Beach, D.A. Points had a chance to catch Marino atop the leaderboard with a birdie on the par-5 18th. Instead, he couldn't escape a fairway bunker and took bogey, which made a difference in the Sunday pairings.

A big difference.

That final hole is what kept Points and his amateur partner—Bill Murray—from joining Marino in the final group.

"That would have been a trip," Marino said. "I don't know about that."

Despite his struggles on the green, Marino had a 1-over 71 at Monterey Peninsula and had a one-shot lead over Jimmy Walker, who had a 63 at Monterey Peninsula, and Bryce Molder, who had a 68 at Spyglass Hill while playing before a gallery of about a dozen.

Points shot 71 and was another shot behind.

Marino couldn't imagine trying to win his first PGA Tour event while playing alongside the assistant head greenskeeper at Bushwood, the famous role Murray played in "Caddyshack."

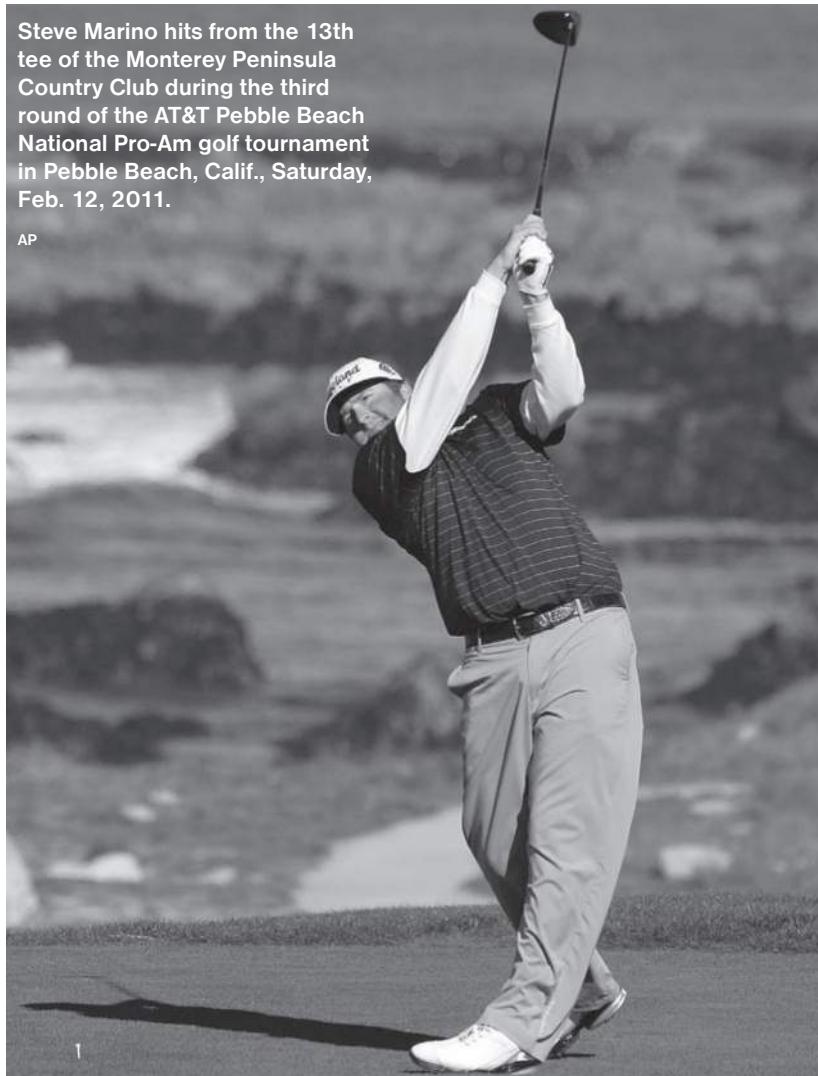
What's there to worry about?

All Murray did Saturday was wear an Elmer Fudd hat (to signal that he and Points were in the hunt). As Points faced a short birdie putt on the second hole, Murray offered him a bite of his doughnut if he made it.

Late in the round on the par-3 17th, Murray playfully tossed it to a young girl

Steve Marino hits from the 13th tee of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club during the third round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011.

AP



in the bunker. And after Points made a birdie, Murray and Points held hands and jumped into the bunker.

Welcome to the PGA Tour, Pebble style.

"He gave everybody Ben and Jerry's ice cream bars on 17," Points said. "He did plenty of stuff. It doesn't really bother me. I hope he does it tomorrow. I'll be interested to see what the guys we play

with tomorrow feel about it, but it doesn't bother me."

Marino doesn't have to worry about it.

He was at 12-under 202 and will be in the final group with his partner, Irish amateur Dermot Desmond, and Walker.

Molder and amateur Harry You, who have a one-shot lead in the pro-am portion of the tournament, will be in the second-to-last group with Points and

Murray, who are one shot behind.

The four players atop the leaderboard have as many PGA Tour victories as Murray, which would be none.

Marino might be the most tested, having lost in a playoff at Colonial a year ago and finishing with one of the best shots of the young season at the Sony Open last month in Honolulu to finish second.

"I felt like I've had the game to win out here for a while," Marino said. "It just hasn't happened. I'm not going to say that I'm due. But I feel like I'm good enough to win on this tour."

Marino was not too bothered by a round that featured a trio of three-putt bogeys, an unplayable lie from a bush and an eagle. He said he hit the ball better than he has all week, but could not get used to the pace of the greens on the Shore course.

"A strange round," he said.

Alex Cejka and Tom Gillis were at 9-under 205, while the group another shot back included J.J. Henry, Kevin Sutherland and Aaron Baddeley. They were the only players in the top 10 on the leaderboard who have won on tour.

Molder has some experience being in contention, although he is trying to bury part of that memory. A year ago at Pebble Beach, he was closing in on the lead when he took a quintuple-bogey 9 on the 14th hole. Two other players also made 9 on that hole, which is quickly growing a reputation as one of the toughest par 5s on tour without a water hazard.

"I don't remember what you're talking about," Molder said with a grin. "You know, all you can do is laugh. I got there this year (on Thursday) and made a mess of it, had a good up-and-down for bogey."

Phil Mickelson moved into contention for a fourth title at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am by making three birdies over his final five holes for a 69.

That moved him to 7-under 207, only five shots back going into the final round.

"I thought that the round could have been a lot better, but toward the end ... I probably got as much out of the round as I could have," Mickelson said. "But throughout the course of the day, I had many opportunities to go low and I didn't take advantage of them. I've got to go really low tomorrow to give myself a chance."

That was all Mickelson had time to say. He rushed off to the airport to fly home to San Diego for daughter Sophia's dance recital.

Only three times in the last 20 years has a player won the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am for this first PGA Tour victory, the last one being Arron Oberholser in 2006.

They might not be rookies, but not many of them have been tested.

"I was talking to my coach, and he says, 'Don't do anything different tonight than if you were 50th or missing the cut,'" Walker said.

Marino isn't sure that matters.

"All these guys are good," he said. "Everybody is going to get their experience somewhere, and for some people, it might be tomorrow."

It figures to be crowded Sunday, inside and outside the ropes.

Because the top 20 pro-am teams play the final round, the cut is top 60 and ties. However, 73 players finished at 2-under 212. That includes two-time defending champion Dustin Johnson, who had to make a 3-foot par putt on the 18th at Pebble to make the cut.

David Duval opened his tournament with no birdies and a 77 at Pebble Beach, but he rallies with rounds of 65 and 70 to make it on the number. Perhaps even more impressive was Jeff Maggert, who opened with 75-74 and shot 62 at Monterey Peninsula.

MVP Tom Brady, suggested a longer season be accompanied by increased roster size from 53 players to 58, all eligible to play on game day; currently, only 45 can suit up, plus a third quarterback. He also would institute a rule that prohibits any player from appearing in more than 16 games.

"This compromise will create even more interest from fans," Yee said. "What two games will the head coach sit the starting QB? That's a discussion that will set sports talk radio airwaves afire."

"This compromise will also be popular with coaches and general managers who want a greater opportunity to develop younger players. The NFL doesn't have a minor league, and this compromise will force meaningful participation by younger players on the roster."

"Players also would endorse this because each would effectively get two bye weeks during the year. Bye weeks afford important healing time and personal time away from the game."

The agents get their information on negotiations from the NFLPA and its player representatives. They say the lines of communication have been good thus far.

"Technically, he has no obligation to us," Linta says of union head DeMaurice Smith. "We are piano players, nobodies in the process. But he is keeping us informed and making it timely."

Player agents' take on NFL labor: a 'mess'



NEW YORK (AP)—NFL owners have been heard on the labor front. So have the players.

What about the agents?

Some say they aren't expecting much progress in negotiations between the NFL and the players' union before the collective bargaining agreement expires March 3.

"The reason for that date is it's the end of the league year," said Joe Linta, who represents Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco and three dozen other players. "Sure, an extension could be coming. If I still believe in Santa Claus, I still have hope."

Linta is among many agents who believe every other issue will get resolved quickly enough once the owners and union agree on how to split nearly \$9 billion in revenues.

The owners get \$1 billion off the top for operating expenses and are seeking an additional \$1 billion. The players note how popular the league is, with record TV ratings, and say they shouldn't have to take a pay cut.

"It's all about money, as it always is," he said Friday, "and everything will flow from there once there's a macro agreement."

Ralph Cindrich has been through every labor dispute between players and owners dating back to the 1970s and the union's infancy. While saying of the state of negotiations "it's fair to call it a mess," Cindrich also concludes "it's too early to panic" and

when both parties want to seriously negotiate, they will.

"When they come to the time period when decisions need to be made, that's when they will get down to something," said Cindrich, who represents Steelers linebacker James Farrior and Colts center Jeff Saturday among many others.

A key issue is the owners' intent to include a rookie wage scale, which Linta calls "way overblown" and Peter Schaffer, agent for All-Pro tackle Joe Thomas, says is "scouting insurance against poor selection decisions."

The rookie wage scale proposed by the owners would cover a five-year period. Many players and their representatives say that translates into a veteran wage scale, too, by limiting earnings for players whose average career is less than five years.

Besides, Schaffer says in an e-mail to The Associated Press, a rookie

wage scale would not really help NFL owners' spending concerns, and it would damage college football by causing a rush of underclassmen turning pro earlier so they could get to free agency quicker.

"The reality is that the current NFL draft system in its entirety is a tremendous economic windfall to the NFL teams," Schaffer said, "as it provides a large source of cheap, young labor to the league signed for contracts exceeding four years."

That's not true for the highest picks in the draft—Rams quarterback Sam Bradford signed a deal with \$50 million guaranteed as the top selection last year. But, as Linta mentions, the extremely lucrative contracts go to a dozen or fewer rookies.

Devin McCourty, selected 27th overall last April, received \$10 million over five years, which Schaffer said was not in the top 60 for cornerbacks. McCour-

ty started for New England and made the Pro Bowl.

Eugene Parker, who has Ndamukong Suh, the Defensive Rookie of the Year, among his clients, sees a rookie wage scale as an incentive for agents to potentially not represent players coming out of college.

"It could be a scenario like basketball where the salaries are fixed and there really is little negotiating room for the agent up front," Parker told Sirius NFL Radio on Friday, "and if that is the case you will see more and more agents focusing on the vet players than on the rookie players."

Expanding the regular season to 18 games is negotiable in the view of the dozen agents interviewed by the AP. Each of them cited player safety and the increased chance for injuries as the major stumbling block to a longer regular season.

Don Yee, who represents league

Haynesworth formally charged with assault

RESTON, Va. (AP)—Washington Redskins defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth has been formally charged with misdemeanor assault stemming from a road rage incident earlier this month.

Fairfax County police say the 29-year-old Haynesworth and his at-

torney appeared at a police station Saturday morning. Haynesworth signed a summons warrant charging him with assault and left.

He's scheduled to appear in court on March 31.

The encounter that led to the charge occurred on Feb. 2. Police said a

38-year-old man told investigators he was assaulted by the driver of a pickup truck who was tailgating him. The driver was later identified as Haynesworth.

Haynesworth's agent, Chad Speck, has said the player is innocent and that his accuser is seeking fame and money.

Cali-Kano leads Chamolinian softball winners

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Cali-Kano Grouper, Sakudi, and Natibu nailed run-rule victories over their respective opponents in last Monday's 2nd Annual Chamolinian Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Cali-Kano Grouper downed Berdax, 18-8.

Berdax took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Franco Flores led off with a solo homer and Frank Robert reached and scored off errors. Cali-Kano tied it up in the bottom half. Navan Falig hit a double and scored off an error.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Sakudi's Popo Tudela takes a cut during their game against T & C Clan in last Monday's 2nd Annual Chamolinian Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Berdax went 1-2-3 to start the third and Cali-Kano took a 5-2 lead in the bottom frame. Ben Falig singled in Jess Magofgna and Dante Sablan drew a walk

and scored off an error. Dante Sablan later scored off an error.

Berdax went 1-2-3 again to start the third and Cali-Kano added two runs to its lead. Then

around 5pm.

While the Ayuyus warmed up for the title game, the Rays remained at the dugout, trying to catch their breath after playing three straight matches.

When the game started, the Rays still seemed to have some juice left and led, 10-6, off Pedro Castro's five early points. However, when Kagman began pushing up the ball in the last three minutes of the opening canto, Southern lacked the fresh legs to keep pace with the speeding Ayuyus.

By the end of the first period, Kagman grabbed the lead, 19-15, and things continued to fall apart for the weary Southern

crew in the second canto. Besides the fatigue factor, the Rays muffed their chance in the finals because of poor players' rotation. Pedro Castro, who scored 19 points in Southern's win over MHS, saw limited minutes in the second quarter and sat out the entire third period before returning in the fourth where Kagman was already way ahead. Adrian Palacios, who logged 17 points against MHS, was in and out of the court and was held to two points.

Kagman used its bench a lot with the absence of Talalemotu and Faisao, but still the Ayuyus' starters were the ones who delivered the killer blows

Berdax managed three runs in the top of the fourth inning. Ben Taisacan drove in Jesse Tenorio and Frank Robert scored Taisacan before coming home off a fielder's choice.

Berdax kept Cali-Kano at bay in the bottom frame and took a brief 8-7 lead in the top of the sixth. However, Cali-Kano answered with an 11-run explosion in the bottom half for the run rule victory.

Sakudi 27, T & C Clan 2

In the women's division, Sakudi jumped on a 7-0 lead in the top of the first inning. The first three batters all drew walks that set up a two-RBI single by Popo Tudela. An out later, the next five batters all drove in a runner.

T & C Clan went 1-2-3 to close the first and Sakudi added

for the two-time champions. Jason Palacios did a great job quarterbacking for Kagman and stepped up on offense, firing 18 points, while Juan Maratita had a game-high 26 points. Sahj Hossain also played a solid game, offensively, with his 19 markers.

Finals

KHS 82 – Maratita 26, Hosain 19, Palacios 18, Ogo 6, Babauta 4, Manglona 2.

SSHS 67 – Castro 12, Ecalnea 11, Villanueva 10, Jung 9, Salem 7, Muna 7, Cadiang 6, Palacios 4, Byun 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-15, 41-30, 67-49, 82-67.

played in his first tournament and topped Gary Ramsey, 8-3. Nanding Cajigan and Dong-Ik Jang were set to duel for the second and final championship berth yesterday at PIC. Cajigan won over Ken Imaya, 8-3, while Jang earned a bye in the first round.

In the mini tennis, Jireh Warren, Sakura Sato, Asia Raulerson, Ryan Kim, Danielle Colombo, and Matthew Thomas notched quarterfinals

berths. Robert Schorr and Frederick Guintu were battling for one of the last two quarterfinal seats yesterday. Gillian Villagomez and Emma Kim were also vying for a spot to the Round of 8 yesterday.

Amanda Kloeppel prevailed in the women's rookie course, completing the shortest race of the day in 32:46. Esther Ada came in at second with a time of 38:35, while Juanita Fajardo finished third after clocking in at 45:46.

Fifty-three bikers registered for the second edition of the Northern Passage, including youth riders Alex Bateman, Kaisei Toda, Andrew Johnson, and Erico Castro.

In the rookie course, Nelson Pagaduan edged Noel Ignacio in a sprint finish with the former timing in at 24:28 against the latter's 24:30. Enrique Suba placed third with his 25:22.

ers added three more runs in the bottom half of the fifth. Then the Enforcers forced the A's to go 1-2-3 for the third time in a row to secure the victory. Enforcers' Cedric Camacho batted 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

In their 14-2 win over the Twins, the visiting Enforcers jumped all over the latter in first inning and never looked back. They tallied 10 runs in the first, added four more to start the second inning, and held on for the win. The Twins managed their pair of runs in the bottom of the first, but were shut out in the remainder of the contest. Enforcers' Henry Lizama was a home

run short of the cycle in four at bats and scored three runs with a pair of stolen bases.

In the A's 11-1 triumph over the Braves, the former built a 3-0 lead off two hits and a bunch of errors in the first inning. The Braves came up empty to start the second and the A's added a pair of runs in the bottom frame. They stuffed the Braves again in the third and extended their lead to 6-0 in the bottom of the third.

The A's kept the Braves at bay in the fourth and added three more runs in the bottom half. Then the Braves scored their lone run in the top of the fifth, but the A's answered

with three runs in the bottom half to force a run rule victory. The A's Dean Santos reached base and scored in all four of his plate appearances.

Meanwhile, this Saturday's Majors games will have the A's taking on the Attorney Robert T. Torres-Kagman Lions at 9am, the Braves meeting Team McDonald's, and the Enforcers dueling the YCO Corp. Rays.

On Sunday, the Twins challenge the Bank of Saipan Red Sox, the Juan S. Tenorio Jets battle the NSA Tanapag Falcons, and IP&E Strikers square off against the Tan Siu Lin-Rep. DL Guerrero Dandan Comets.

four runs in the top of the second of a hit, a walk and three triples.

Then it was déjà vu for T & C, as it went 1-2-3 on its second try before Sakudi piled on four more runs, this time of three hits, two walks, and a double to start the third.

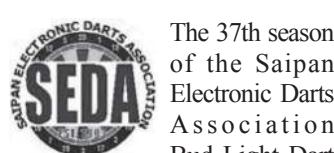
T & C managed a run in the bottom half, but Sakudi fired back with a 12-run inning to start the fourth.

Natibu 19, Laolao 1

Natibu built an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Lawrence Dikito drove in Noki Saralu and Jerome Delos Santos belted a two-run homerun.

SEDA starts new season today

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The 37th season of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart

League starts today and will feature Ladies and A division games

Besides the Ladies and A leagues, seven other divisions will have their competition.

This season's master teams include the Black Stallions of Buddies' Bar & Grill, Flying Dartmen, Round Bar's PIC Shooters, D'Pirates Sports Bars' M-Destroyers, Elite of Jonny's Bar & Grill, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Companeros, and Sniper Destroyers. Master games start Wednesday.

The A division is consist of Naked Fish Boyz of Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Oleai's Celebrity Proofers, Buddies' Cool-its and Locals Too, Charlies' Primos of Charlies' Bar & Grill, Balite Boys, Kanto Boyz, and Mixed-Blood Shooters.

The Ladies league is made up of Jonny's Yakau, Bar Gaia's Nasty Girls, Charlie's Spicy Girls, D'Pirates Aschooschoo, Buddies' Man-Amiga, and Sistah.

The Tuesday B-League will have the Buddies' Sal-

Laolao failed to answer and Natibu erupted with 15 runs in the top of the second. The first three batters reached with hits and a fly out later the next eight Natibu players all managed hits. Then an out later, four more runners came to the plate off three doubles and two hits.

Aside from the 12 other manufactured runs in the inning, Natibu's Delos Santos busted a second two-run blast just before his teammate Jerry Guerrero stepped in next and smashed a solo shot.

Laolao managed its sole run in the bottom of the fourth before the early ending.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

advance to the finals. Southern won over Mt. Carmel School, 75-53, edged Tinian High School on Adrian Palacios' buzzer-beating floater, 66-65, and then stunned MHS in the semis, 79-65.

However that streak ended, as fatigue took its toll on Southern, which challenged Kagman in the finals, only 20 minutes after its semis victory against MHS. Kagman faced and beat MHS, 76-71, in the first semis game played at 10am and the Ayuyus came back for the finals match

JOHNSON

From Page 28

first round and then defeated Nakajima, 8-0, to gain the first finals berth. Nakajima

SUBLEMENTE

From Page 28

championship course pedaled through the damp trails of Kimikaze, Autobahn, and Banzai Cliff and several paved and coral roads.

Settling for another runner-up finish in the championship course was Tyce Mister, who clocked in at 57:49, which was better than his 58:57 in 2010. Russ Quinn completed the Top

ENFORCERS

From Page 28

week. The A's absorbed the loss after coming off an 11-1 run-rule victory over Natibu Sports Association's Tanapag Braves last week.

Only yesterday's games were played, as Saturday matches were rained out.

The home team Enforcers managed a 1-0 lead in the first inning before the A's tied the game in the top of the third frame. Then the Enforcers took a 3-1 lead in the bottom of the fourth. The A's failed to answer and the Enforc-

ers added three more runs in the bottom half of the fifth. Then the Enforcers forced the A's to go 1-2-3 for the third time in a row to secure the victory. Enforcers' Cedric Camacho batted 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

In the short course division, Bob Ferrer also defended his men's division title after making it to the finish line at the 49:19 mark, about three minutes faster than his 2010 time (52:56). Arnel Cruz and Mr. Kim rounded out the Top 3 after posting 49:24 and 54:05, respectively.

In the rookie course, Nelson Pagaduan edged Noel Ignacio in a sprint finish with the former timing in at 24:28 against the latter's 24:30. Enrique Suba placed third with his 25:22.

run short of the cycle in four at bats and scored three runs with a pair of stolen bases.

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TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	14	.731	—
New York	27	26	.509	11 1/2
Philadelphia	26	28	.481	13
New Jersey	17	38	.309	22 1/2
Toronto	14	40	.259	25

Southeast Division

Miami	39	14	.736	—
Atlanta	33	20	.623	6
Orlando	34	21	.618	6
Charlotte	23	31	.426	16 1/2
Washington	14	38	.269	24 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	36	16	.692	—
Indiana	24	28	.462	12
Milwaukee	20	33	.377	16 1/2
Detroit	20	34	.370	17
Cleveland	9	45	.167	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	45	9	.833	—
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Weekend Sports

Tsunami Saipan swimmers have a record-breaking week, as other CNMI athletes continued their respective competitions.

Fourteen records were shattered in the 2011 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool with Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang crashing six marks in the boys U8 division. Fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmers Kensuke Kimura eclipsed four, Ryuto Yanai broke two, and Kaito Yanai and Angel Marie Tan smashed one apiece.

Besides setting records in the

Swimming records fall

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

weekend meet, these five Tsunami Saipan swimmers also finished in the Top 3 of the high point race in their respective age group and did well in the 33rd Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim.

Also making it to Saipan Tribune's headline was the Super Bowl XLV, which local fans watched in various bars and

restaurants. The Green Bay Packers defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, 31-25.

In the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization leagues, Kagman High School ruled the regular season of the boys basketball competition, Saipan International School swept the girls basketball, and Marianas

High School topped the team standings in the girls soccer.

In the Saipan Little League Baseball, the Fielders remained unbeaten in the Senior League and they were also victorious in the Juniors, joining the Survivors in last week's winners list.

In softball, the Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-pitch

season with NMC Proa being the only undefeated team, holding a 5-0 record. NMC won two games last week, downing Satbahi and the Ol'Aces.

Still in basketball, former CNMI Nationals team member Jericho Cruz continued to sizzle in the collegiate league in the Philippines, leading his team to a finals stint and making it to the Mythical Five of the competition.

Also shining in an off-island event was Frank "The Crank" Camacho, who won a bronze medal in the 2011 U.S. Trials for the Abu Dhabi World Professional Jiu Jitsu Championship in Jersey City, New Jersey.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School female strikers in action during a regular season game in the MISO soccer league at the Rays field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kaito Yanai competes in the 50m breaststroke race during the 2011 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Southern High School's Adrian Palacios, top, and Kagman High School's Brandon Babauta battle for the loose ball during their playoff game in the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
The Fielders' Keene Guerrero delivers a pitch during their Senior League game against the Lions at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Angel Marie Tan moves out of the water during the 33rd Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMC Proa's Mike Babauta goes for a layup, while two Satbahi players look on during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
A Saipan International School player kneels for a return during a regular season game in the MISO girls volleyball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



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Swimming
records fall

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28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back titles for Ayuyus



Kagman High School players and coaching staff flash the No. 2 sign after winning back-to-back titles in the MISO varsity caging on Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The Ayuyus beat Saipan Southern High School in the finals, 82-67.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School capped its perfect season in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League with a championship clinching 82-67 win over Saipan Southern High School on Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The 15-point win in the finals gave the Ayuyus their second straight varsity title, as Kagman also topped Southern in last season's championship game, 48-41.

In their title rematch, the Manta Rays seemed to have a good chance of pulling off an upset over the Ayuyus, as Kag-

man missed two key players and Southern was on a roll going into the finals. The Ayuyus played without injured center Savali Talalemotu on Saturday, while Ichitaro Faisao missed the entire playoff round due to academic deficiencies.

The Rays lost their second playoff match over Kagman on Friday, but streaked to three straight wins on Saturday to

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26



Johnson enters U15 singles finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Melody Johnson and Mikayla Lopez are up for another title collision, following their semifinal wins in the girls U15 singles division of the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic played over the weekend at the various tennis courts on Saipan.

Johnson booked the first semis ticket after an 8-2 win

Melody Johnson returns to Negahr Rastguy during their U15 singles semis game in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

over Negahr Rastguy at the American Memorial Park tennis courts yesterday. On Saturday, Johnson won her opening game against Jazmin Rayphand at the Pacific Islands Club court, 8-3, to set up a semis duel over Rastguy, who topped Jeane Bracken, 8-1.

Lopez, who battled Johnson in the finals in a tournament in Guam in December, had a rousing start in the U15 singles, shutting out Seong Hyun Lee, 8-0. In the semifinals, Lopez defeated Adele Hudkins, 8-2. Hudkins advanced to the semis after beating Alina Ishikawa, 8-5.

In other results, Rafael Jones notched his second win in the round-robin boys U18 singles,

Dong Min Lee made it to the finals of the men's 40-and-above singles, and six players moved into the quarterfinals of the mini tennis event.

Jones was first pitted against Andy Nutting on the PIC court on Saturday and won, 8-0, and then outclassed Daniel Park over at AMP yesterday, 8-6. Park prevailed in his first game against Clay McCullough-Stearns, 8-2. Christian Miller is also entered in the same event and was scheduled to play against McCullough-Stearns yesterday, but results of their match were unavailable at press time.

In the men's 40-and-above singles, Lee drew a bye in the

See JOHNSON on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Butch Sublemente ruled yesterday's 2011 Northern Passage in a record-breaking fashion.

Sublemente completed the championship course of the longest race of the day in 55 minutes and 44 sec-

onds to surpass his 56:08 winning time during the inaugural edition of the bike competition last year.

The back-to-back Northern Passage champion was happy he broke his record despite slowing down on slippery trails. Participants in the

See SUBLIMENTE on Page 26



Butch Sublemente raises his arms in triumph after ruling the Northern Passage yesterday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Enforcers streak to third win

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Junior Police Officer Program Enforcers are undefeated in three games after downing the Docomo-Rep. Ramon Basa Athletics, 6-1, in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League Baseball yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The five-run win was a fitting follow-up on the Enforcers' 14-2 rout of the Marianas Health Service-As Matuus Twins last

See ENFORCERS on Page 26

The Docomo A's Justin Lisua, fires a pitch in their game against the Enforcers in the Majors division yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

